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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 338



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WORLDWIDE REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ENLARGE BARRIER REEF MARINE PARK

Prime Minister's Announcement

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 13 Nov 81 p 1

[Article by Patrick Walters]

[Text]

CANBERRA.—The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, overrode the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, yesterday and announced that the Federal Government will proclaim the 550-kilometre Cairns section of the Great Barrier Reef a marine park.

Mr Fraser's decision after a stormy 60-minute meeting with Mr Bjelke-Petersen in Canberra, threatens a major political rift between the two men.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said after the meeting he would not accept the Federal Government decision.

"If the Commonwealth persists with their attitude they will go further down the chute than they have already gone," he said.

The Queensland Government would ignore the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, he said.



Low-water mark 'must be boundary'

But Mr Fraser signalled he was ready for a political and legal fight, saying of the Queens-

land Premier, "On the only occasion on which I have taken him on head-on, he lost."

[Mr Fraser was referring to the McPherson Federal by-election in February when the Fraser-backed Liberal candidate defeated the Bjelke-Petersen-backed National Party candidate.]

Mr Fraser said that the Cairns section of the park had been the subject of negotiations between the two Governments for more than 12 months.

The one outstanding issue was whether the western boundary should be the low water mark on the mainland or, as Queensland wanted, five kilometres off the coast.

Mr Fraser stressed that the Federal Government held the view that the low-water mark must form the boundary where areas of ecological significance were concerned.

He said the Commonwealth had full jurisdiction and responsibility right up to the low-water mark under the provisions of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

"The Commonwealth was willing to allow discussions with the Queensland Government to be extended to a very considerable length in the interests of achieving co-operation and agreement," Mr Fraser said.

"But despite the length of the discussions, agreement has not been reached."

Declaration of the Cairns section means that mining and drilling for oil will be automatically

prohibited under the Act. But there will be provision for recreation, shipping and tourism.

The clash has just begun

The Cairns section of the park will be about 36,000 square kilometres.

It adds to the 12,000 square kilometre section already declared.

About 30 per cent of the 550-kilometre western boundary will be the low water mark on the coastline.

The clash between Mr Fraser and Mr Bjelke-Petersen over the park has just begun.

It has already been agreed that day-to-day management of the park will be undertaken by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This means the Queensland Government will have a major role in the administration of the park and could undermine Mr Fraser's intentions.

Ultimately Mr Bjelke-Petersen must co-operate or the Federal Government must shoulder managerial responsibility.

"They can do what they like or they can say what they like and it's not going to make any difference to Queensland," Mr Bjelke-Petersen said.

"What do you think they can do? Can they hang us? Can they jail us?"

"I said to the Prime Minister emphatically and very definitely that we will not accept such a situation."

The Premier said the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority could meet as many times as it wanted, but Queensland would ignore it.

After their meeting yesterday, both Mr Fraser and Mr Bjelke-Petersen held separate press conferences to explain their differences to the media.

The Prime Minister said there was "no question" that the Fed-

eral Government had the power to act in this fashion. He said if there was any High Court challenge, the Federal Government would fight it.

In December, 1975, the High Court ruled that the Commonwealth had ownership and control of the territorial seas up to the low water mark.

The Queensland Premier argues that Queensland should have power over the territorial sea out to the five kilometre or three nautical mile zone, similar to that enjoyed by the other States.

The offshore legislative package passed by Federal Parliament last year gave the States title extending out to three mile limit but clearly stated that the Great Barrier Reef would remain subject to the operation of the Marine Park Act.

Under an agreement reached between Mr Fraser and Mr Bjelke-Petersen at Emerald in central Queensland in June, 1979, both governments accepted this principle — in effect making the Barrier Reef a special case subject to Federal law.

However central to the controversy is that until the park is declared, the Queensland Government can allow mining or any other activity in the region without reference to the Commonwealth.

Mr Fraser said yesterday that he regretted that the Queensland Government had not agreed to co-operate on the western boundary of the Cairns section.

"But I believe that there is support throughout the whole of Australia for the course of action being followed," he said.

Later, in Brisbane, Mr Bjelke-Petersen said that during a "very bad day of not very happy or pleasant" talks, he had warned the Prime Minister about the political consequences.

"I told Mr Fraser that his administration was like a school of whales intent on committing political suicide," he said.

Queensland Premier Opposed

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 14-15 Nov 81 p 1

[Article by Joe Begley]

[Text] THE Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, will launch a hostile political campaign against the Federal Government over the decision by the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, to declare a large area of the Great Barrier Reef a marine park controlled by the Commonwealth.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen will begin a series of trips along the Queensland coast next Tuesday to rally public support for his stand — the day Mr Fraser is expected to introduce legislation for the extra powers to control the reef.

There now seems to be an impasse between the Federal Government and Queensland.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said yesterday he would not negotiate any further with Mr Fraser "until Canberra sees some sense".

"We are not open to any discussions or decisions with them until then," he said.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said Mr Fraser had agreed that Queensland would retain control of its territorial waters extending 5.5km off shore.

"We are not going to let him off the hook," he said. "There's not much hope for them (the Federal Government)."

"You'd have to be a dill or a super dill to think you could get away with this."

"These boys don't have the political nous or ability to see

where they are heading. You have to be bonkers to believe that the people would want you to do this."

But Mr Fraser has dug in on the issue, saying that if the Queensland Government refused to co-operate, the park might be managed without State involvement. He warned Queensland rangers could be barred from the park.

Mr Fraser, speaking on the AM radio program, said it would be a great pity if the Queensland Government ignored a management system determining the rules for tourism, fishing and other activities.

Meanwhile, National Country Party federal ministers will come under fire on the issue this weekend at the party's federal council meeting in Canberra.

Senior party sources said Queensland members were enraged that Mr Fraser had rejected an offer of a compromise by Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen has told party officials that he told the Commonwealth he was prepared to proclaim any areas they nominated as national parks. But he was not prepared to relinquish Queensland's sovereignty over its coastline.

Conference delegates were yesterday planning a series of questions to the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, and the Minister for Science, Mr Thompson.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen accused Mr Fraser of breaking a promise by extending the western

boundary of the marine park to the low water mark in some areas.

For the Cairns section of the marine park, to which the Commonwealth's latest declaration applies, this affects about 30 per cent of its 550km-long western boundary.

But Mr Bjelke-Petersen faces a critical test to his position. Moves have already started in State Government circles to isolate him.

The State president of the Liberal Party, Dr John Heron, said Mr Fraser and the Federal Government had the total support of the party's Queensland division, and the State's Liberal leader and Deputy Premier, Dr Edwards, will push for the question to be resolved at Monday's Cabinet meeting.

Dr Edwards said yesterday he would do everything he could to convince Cabinet that a solution would be for Queensland to participate in the management of areas within the 5.5km limit.

But Mr Bjelke-Petersen would have nothing to do with this.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said he was disappointed with the support he received from the National Party's federal Leader, Mr Anthony.

"He's a National Party man and I thought he could have given me a little help, but he did everything he could to thwart me," the Premier said.

In Canberra the Opposition spokesman for environment and conservation, Mr West, said that danger still existed for the future of the Reef.

State Ministers Back Solution

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 14 Nov 81 p 1

[Article by Peter Morley]

[Text]

As Mr Bjelke-Petersen yesterday announced plans for protest meetings against Canberra's unilateral delineation of the boundary, ministers were planning tactics to stop him.

They fear actions by Mr Bjelke-Petersen may force the Fraser Government to retreat from the compromise deal where Queensland retains control over a 5 km offshore strip covering 70

percent of the 530 km western border.

The ministers consider the proposal for the remaining 90 percent, including ecologically-sensitive areas, to extend to the low water mark is reasonable provided Queensland can participate in the management.

They are anxious that Mr Bjelke-Petersen not jeopardise this compromise and force the Federal Government back to its original position — a low water mark boundary along the entire 530 km.

Last night senior ministers admitted the Federal Government could legally do this following a recent High Court determination giving it authority from the low water mark.

One of the ministers who made his position public was the Deputy Premier, Dr Edwards, who said: "The latest decision should be acceptable to Queensland."

"No doubt this matter will be raised in Cabinet on Monday and I will do all I can to convince the Queensland Cabinet that this is an acceptable solution."

"It will ensure that the reef can be protected as sought by Liberal Party policy, and, indeed, Queensland Government policy."

But without consulting Cabinet the Premier has decided to call meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday with local authorities in Cairns, Townsville and Mackay.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen who originally wanted an 8km offshore boundary, said the argument now was a political one.

"The politicians (Federal) along the coast have to decide whether they are on the state's side or on Canberra's," he said.

"I think I will be pretty effective. I will have a field day with anyone who supports Canberra. They would have to be super silly. I wonder whether there is any political news left in Canberra."

Mr Bjelke-Petersen did not confine his remarks to Liberal federal politicians. He included the Deputy Prime Minister, and National Country Party leader, Mr Anthony "As a National, I would have thought he would have given me a bit of a hand but he did everything to thwart me," Mr Bjelke-Petersen said.

He said he was not opposed to a marine park but would never accept the conditions that would apply in the sensitive ecological areas. Queenslanders would be locked out of some of these places which would be set aside exclusively as a scientists' playground.

He believed Dr Edwards might have been misled by Canberra's statement that Queensland could manage these areas.

"What some people may not know is that Canberra has added a rider that if we don't manage according to their directions they will step in and take control," he said. "As it stands, they would want us to do all their dirty work of policing the areas, forcing people out of places they have frequented and fished for years."

"There is no way I will be diverted. They can declare these areas marine parks every morning but it won't make any difference. Next week they will see that I am not isolated in my opposition."

Mr Bjelke-Petersen said he was amazed that Canberra had made the park announcement without referring the matter to Federal Cabinet.

The marine park authority had not even considered the matter, which was to have been discussed next Wednesday.

Queensland's representatives were the Co-ordinator General, Mr Schubert, and Dr J. Baker, of Townsville. The Premier knew Mr Schubert had a "sensible" approach and hoped Dr Baker had the same ideas.

Last night the Opposition Leader, Mr Casey, said Queensland now must realise how obstructive and devious the Premier had been over the reef issue.

Canberra's rebuff of his stand was recognition of the importance of the reef and the marine park to the people of Queensland and Australia.

Obviously the Premier wanted to keep the 3 km strip for mining and drilling, the only two activities forbidden in the marine park.

The House of Representatives Environment and Conservation committee chairman, Mr Hodges, said his committee had recommended similar action to that taken by Canberra.

Law Gives Canberra Authority

Canberra THE WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN in English 14-15 Nov 81 p 1

[Article by Pip Rath and Ross Peake]

[Text]

THE Federal Government holds all the legal cards in its battle with the Queensland Government over the creation

of a Great Barrier Reef marine park.

As the law stands, the Commonwealth has full authority

deep all waters below the low water mark.

But there may be an outside chance the Queensland Government can overturn the High Court decision it made in 1973 should be reversed.

In that decision, known as the Seas and Submerged Lands Case, the High Court held that the States had no territorial rights beyond the low water mark.

In a conciliatory mood last year, the Federal Government agreed to return some of its extensive powers over territorial seas to the States.

The off-shore agreement thrashed out between the States and the Federal Government, which is not yet in force, will give the States jurisdiction over waters 5.5km from the coast.

Under the agreement, the Commonwealth has retained

the right to exercise its powers over areas declared by it to fall within the scope of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act.

A senior lecturer in constitutional law at the University of Queensland, Mr Christopher Gilbert, said yesterday the 1973 High Court decision gave the Commonwealth full authority over all waters below the low-water mark.

Any High Court action initiated by the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen, on the basis of the Federal Government allegedly breaking the off-shore agreement would be likely to fail.

Mr Gilbert said this agreement could not take precedence over the Constitution.

He also doubted if Mr Bjelke-Petersen could successfully sue for damages over this alleged breach.

The alleged breach to the

agreement would occur when 30 per cent of the Cairns section of the park was extended to the low-water mark.

Mr Gilbert said: "Under the Constitution, as interpreted by the High Court, the Commonwealth has full power to make whatever decisions it likes for waters up to the low-water mark."

"If the Commonwealth Government makes an agreement and later wants to break that agreement, assuming that is what the Commonwealth is actually doing, the fact that the agreement was made does not stop the Commonwealth going ahead and exercising its powers under the Constitution."

"If it wants to declare a marine park, in relation to the seas, the reefs and seabed beyond the low-water mark, it can do so."

Opposition Leader Wants More

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 16 Nov 81 p 4

[Excerpts]

CANBERRA: The Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr Hayden, yesterday praised the Federal Government's decision to override Queensland and move to protect the Cairns section of the Great Barrier Reef.

Mr Hayden said yesterday that Mr Fraser's decision after two years of negotiations showed he realised that reasonable talks with Mr Bjelke-Petersen were impossible particularly when they involved his own "narrow political interest."

It had taken six years for 10 per cent of the reef and its waters to be included in the marine park. It would take another 50 years for the rest of the area to be totally protected from mining or oil exploration.

Even the Cairns section was still not safe as the Government had conceded control of 70 per cent of the area to the Queensland Government, giving it the power to freely issue exploration permits.

But he said that the Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, had not gone far

enough towards protecting the reef.

"By his actions last week, Mr Fraser has shown that he can and will take up his Government's national responsibilities when he is pushed into a corner," Mr Hayden said during his weekly radio broadcast.

"The Government must now immediately declare the whole of the Great Barrier Reef and its surrounding waters, a protected marine park."

Mr Fraser said on Thursday that the Government would move immediately to declare the 36,000 sq km Cairns section as part of a marine park because of a breakdown in talks with the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

Decision Fails Conservationists

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 41 Nov 81 p 2

[Article by Joseph Glascott]

[Text]

Even with addition of the Cairns section, only 10 per cent of The Great Barrier Reef is protected in the reef marine park.

The Commonwealth Government's unilateral declaration of the Cairns section on Thursday is, however, an important gain for the marine park. But there is a long way to go.

The Great Barrier Reef runs for about 2,000km along the Queensland coast and is regarded so highly that last month it was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act introduced by the Whitlam Government in 1975 provided for all of the reef to be protected in a national marine park.

But it took until 1979 before the first area of the park, 1,200 square kilometres off Gladstone — the Capricornia section — to be declared.

Now the Commonwealth has declared the large Cairns section, of about 36,000 sq kilometres between Lizard and Dunk Islands, in the face of opposition from the Queensland Government.

The difficulties and delays in declaring these sections protected and the Queensland Government's obstruction are ominous signs for the protection of the remaining 90 per cent of the reef.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, who is strongly committed personally to the protection of the reef, nominated it for World Heritage

listing.

He was forced this week to override Queensland Government objections to declare the Cairns sections.

Inclusion of the reef areas in the marine park gives them protection from exploitation such as oil exploration and drilling.

The park declaration also means that the Great Barrier Marine Park Authority, in association with the Queensland Government, can prepare plans for the management of the areas.

It means, as in the case of the Capricornia section, management plans providing for some reefs to be preserved for scientific research, some for habitation of rare birds and some for tourists. Waters surrounding the reefs can be regulated for fishing.

The Queensland Government retains control over reef islands, but has agreed to co-operate with the park authority on management plans.

The Cairns section caused problems of control because the reef at this section comes close to the coast.

Queensland insisted that it retain a five km territorial sea area off its coast which in many sections covered the reef.

The compromise which the Commonwealth has forced upon Queensland is not an adequate solution in the view of conservation bodies.

The chairman of the Sydney committee, Reef Action, Mr Alan Catford, yesterday congratulated Mr Fraser on his stand.

But he said he was concerned

that 70 per cent of the coast in the 5km territorial sea, was excluded from the marine park.

"This leaves the field wide open in this strip for the Queensland Government to allow drilling for oil.

"Mr Bjelke-Petersen's past statements of intention to drill for oil pose a threat to the reef.

"An oil slick from a blowout could be spread the length and breadth of the reef by currents. The only positive safeguard is to prohibit oil drilling anywhere near the reef.

"The marine park should be declared over the entire reef region, which is possible under the Reef Marine Park Act."

Mr Catford said Mr Fraser's statement that the whole of the reef was fully protected under a Federal Act was not correct.

Only when the Act was used to declare marine areas of the park, then were they protected, he said.

The Federal Labor Party spokesman on environment, Mr Stewart West, MP, said a Labor Government would declare the entire reef region a marine park.

He said the coastal strip left in control of Queensland in the Cairns section meant that the reef was open to the "whims" of the Queensland Government.

This compromise together with the Federal Government's recent amendment of the Petroleum and Submerged Lands Act to allow oil drilling in the Coral Sea east of the Barrier Reef meant that the reef was still under threat from oil mining.

FEDERAL LAWS TO APPLY IN BARRIER REEF COASTAL STRIP

Prime Minister's Clarification

Melbourne THE AGE in English 18 Nov 81 p 5

[Article by Simon Balderstone]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — Federal laws will apply in the Barrier Reef Marine Park inside the five-kilometre offshore strip despite claims to the contrary by the Queensland Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

The Prime Minister, Mr Fraser, made it clear yesterday that all Queensland could do in relation to the strip would be to pass legislation complementary to the Federal Marine Park Act.

The executive council will get formal advice on the Cairns section boundaries today and the section will be proclaimed tomorrow.

On Monday, Mr Bjelke-Petersen claimed that the Commonwealth had backed down and would give Queensland control over the areas of the proposed Cairns section which go to the low-water mark.

The marine park will go to the low-water mark for about 30 per cent of the 550-kilometre western boundary of the Cairns section.

But yesterday Mr Fraser said the Queensland Government had now accepted the propositions put to, and rejected by, Mr Bjelke-Petersen last week.

Mr Fraser said that after the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park authority had drawn up zoning plans, and the processes of public submissions and parliamentary approval had been finalised, it would be the Federal Parliament, and the Marine Park Act, which would "ultimately provide our total capacity to do what needs to be done".

"If the Queensland Parliament want to pass some complementary legislation applying precisely what has been agreed through the processes I have outlined, then of course they can do so to put up a back-up to

the processes."

The complementary legislation was the only difference between the Cairns section and the already-declared Capricornia section of the park, which did not come near the coastline.

"But . . . no changes to what had been agreed would be accepted by the Commonwealth in any sense, shape or form, and that needs to be understood," he said.

Mr Bjelke-Petersen had claimed that such Marine Park Act provisions as arrest without warrants and confiscation of boats would not apply in the offshore strip.

But the Federal law will apply, and Mr Fraser said yesterday that the Marine Park Authority would have the overall responsibility, reporting to the Government, to "make sure that any zoning plan has been properly complied with, and if it were not, something would have to be done about it".

The latest development means that Queensland has now accepted a Commonwealth offer to take part in the management of the Cairns section. It has always been envisaged by the Federal Government that Queensland would conduct day to day management of the marine park, subject to the control of the Marine Park Authority.

But Mr Bjelke-Petersen left Canberra last week angry at Federal refusals to exclude a five-kilometre strip along the coast. He said his Government would ignore the declaration.

The Opposition spokesman on environment and conservation, Mr West, said yesterday that Mr Fraser had refuted Mr Bjelke-Petersen's claims that Queensland would "re-

write the rules", and that normal provisions regarding the policing of the park would apply as designated under the act.

But Mr West said Mr Fraser still seemed to be "peddling the fiction that the Commonwealth can adequately counter any Queensland action to issue oil drilling licences by simply declaring that particular area as marine park."

"If he feels this may be ultimately necessary, the question arises why didn't he declare the whole Cairns section below low water mark now and thus eradicate the possibility of even more confrontation between the Federal and Queensland governments," he said.

Mr Fraser told Federal Parliament yesterday: "I have said on many occasions, and in fact the Queensland Government has also said it on a number of occasions, that we won't allow oil drilling in or around 'the region of the Reef'."

Official Proclamation Issued

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 20 Nov 81 p 11

[Article by Wallace Brown]

[Text.]

CANBERRA. — The Cairns section of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park was officially proclaimed yesterday by the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, in line with last week's decision by the Federal Government.

This followed formal recommendation to the government on the boundaries from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The authority now will develop a zoning and management plan which is expected to come into operation in about 18 months. This plan will take fishing tourist and other commercial interests into account.

The three-man authority comprises Mr Graeme Kelleher, of Canberra (chairman), the Queensland Co-ordinator-General, Mr Syd Schubert, and the James Cook University marine research centre head Dr Joe Bakker, of Townsville.

The marine park will run to the low-water mark on the Queensland mainland for 30 per cent of the 550km involved — and it was this which led to the fierce opposition from the Premier, Mr Bjelke-Petersen.

The Federal Home Affairs and Environment Minister, Mr Wilson, last night outlined this step-by-step procedure that would now be followed:

- The authority would proceed immediately to develop a zoning plan for the Cairns section and would seek public submissions.
- The public would have until the end of next March to provide submissions and all submissions would be taken into account in preparing the draft zoning plan.
- The draft plan then would be published so the public would be aware of the detailed nature of the authority's proposals.
- The revised plan would be submitted to the Great Barrier Reef ministerial council.
- And the recommended zoning plan, with public representations, would then be submitted to the Federal Government.

CANBERRA REJECTS RECOMMENDATIONS ON COASTAL MANAGEMENT

Melbourne THE AGE in English 19 Nov 81 p 19

[Article by Simon Balderstone]

[Text]

CANBERRA. — The Federal Government has rejected several key recommendations of a bi-partisan parliamentary committee report on management of the Australian coastal zone.

The House of Representatives standing committee on environment and conservation had recommended that the Commonwealth, in consultation with the States, develop policies to conserve and preserve the coastline.

It had also recommended that an Australian coastal management council be established to encourage collaboration, assess information requirements and establish research priorities.

But the Minister for Home Affairs and the Environment, Mr Wilson, said last night that these recommendations, plus five others, would not be implemented. He said the Government was sympathetic to the thrust of all of them but did not consider that a completely new council was needed.

Mr Wilson said the Government intended to respond to the committee's report through existing machinery, as already there were several bodies which provide for consultation between the Commonwealth and the States on

coastal environment matters.

The Opposition immediately attacked the decision, saying Mr Wilson had agreed in principle to the recommendations, acknowledged their importance and then disregarded them.

The Opposition spokesman on environment and conservation, Mr West, said the establishment of a management council was instrumental to effective coastal management.

"There is a clear need for such a council and for a national policy to be developed to counter the damage occurring to such a strategic area of our country," Mr West said.

Mr Wilson also said yesterday that 1981-82 grants to voluntary conservation organisations had been held at the same level as last year. He said this was because of government financial restraint.

National groups to get grants include the Australian Conservation Foundation (\$75,000), Friends Of The Earth (\$5000), the Keep Australia Beautiful Council (\$15,000), the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation (\$2000), the National Parks Council (\$1000) and Project Jonah (\$1500).

ENVIRONMENTALISTS BLAST NUCLEAR POWER STUDY AS 'LUNACY'

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 16 Nov 81 p 3

[Article by Nicholas Rothwell]

[Text]

THE first systematic government-sponsored study of the prospects for nuclear power in Australia has been condemned by a group of environmentalists as "lunacy".

The report of the Federal Government's Zeidler committee, tabled in Parliament last week, examined the possibilities of commercial nuclear power generation.

It urged the Government to prepare legislation for the licensing and control of nuclear power plants.

But Friends of the Earth, a leading conservationist lobby, described the suggestion as "out of touch with reality" and accused the committee of working "in secrecy and without public input".

The group's Melbourne research officer, Mr John Hallam, said the fact that the Zeidler committee had even considered nuclear power as an option showed it was out of touch with developments in the industry since the Three Mile Island accident.

"Problems of nuclear power have become more intractable, capital costs for reactors have shot sky-high, reactor per-

formance has declined and safety problems seem further from solution than ever," Mr Hallam said.

"The Three Mile Island accident unearthed a host of regulatory and safety problems — and new problems, such as the possibility that control rods may fail to shut a reactor down in an emergency, have arisen since that time.

"It is significant the Zeidler committee, which heavily represents business interests, met behind closed doors.

"No submissions were invited from bodies such as Friends of the Earth, with knowledge of the area and a point of view very different from that to which the committee has evidently been exposed."

The manager of the Uranium Information Centre, Mr Derek Hampson, said yesterday the Zeidler's committee's recommendation was "very sensible".

"Just because the laws are in place, it does not mean we will have to use them, but we should bear in mind the importance of long-range planning," Mr Hampson said.

BREACH OF ENVIRONMENTAL RULES CLOSES URANIUM MINE

Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 25 Nov 81 p 18

[Text]

DARWIN. — The Northern Territory Government has ordered the \$340 million Ranger uranium project to shut down because of alleged breaches of environmental guidelines.

It was brought to the government's attention that a 20 square metre "island" had appeared in the treatment plant's tailings dam.

The project, officially opened last Friday, is owned by Energy Resources of Australia.

Under an authorisation issued by the NT Minister for Mines and Energy, Mr Tuxworth, all tailings must be covered by at least two metres of water at all times.

Authorities must be notified if there is a breach of the authorisation.

The island appeared on November 5 and was still there yesterday when Secretary of the Mines Department, Mr Mike Purcell, and acting Director

of Mines, Mr Malcolm Daly, inspected the site but was later covered.

ERA told the government that it did not report the matter because it did not think it was important as the island was saturated with liquid and did not emit any harmful dust.

Radon gas readings from the tailings dam had been very small, ERA said.

The mine will be closed until the government is given a satisfactory explanation of why the incident was not reported, what action the company was taking to rectify the situation, and whether this action was satisfactory.

Mr Tuxworth said he wanted guarantees that it would not happen again and that ERA was taking its responsibility seriously.

ERA is now preparing an urgent report to answer the government's questions.

Under the Uranium Mining (Environmental Control) Act, there is a provision for fines up to \$100,000 for breaches of the law.

CSO: 5000/9058

SCIENTISTS FACE LOSING BATTLE TO SAVE ENDANGERED SPECIES

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Dec 81 p 13

[Article by Laura Veltman]

[Text]

MANY Australian plants and animals will become extinct despite efforts by scientists to protect them, according to the secretary of the Federal Department of Environment, Dr Don McMichael.

Dr McMichael, a biologist, said that no matter how much money the Federal Government poured into studies to avert the extinction of endangered species in Australia, it would be fighting a losing battle.

This resulted from a lack of competent personnel in this area of natural science and the absence of priorities among scientists already working to preserve endangered plants and animals.

He estimated \$100,000 was needed for adequate research to discover the causes and antidotes to the extinction of any one of the endangered or rare Australian plants or animals.

Although the present budget of his department allowed "hundreds of thousands of dollars" for research in this area there was always scope for more money to be spent on

worthy causes.

Speaking at a symposium at the Academy of Science in Canberra, Dr McMichael said financial constraints were a problem in fighting against the extinction of rare animal and plant life.

Speakers at the symposium said up to 80 species of native animals and more than 2206 types of flora were considered extinct, endangered or threatened.

Dr McMichael said: "The only possible approach to conservation of such species is to maintain samples of their habitat in sufficient quantity and in as undisturbed a state as possible."

"Even so, it seems likely that we will continue to lose species because the habitat samples are inadequate for one reason or another," he said.

Dr McMichael said attempts to save endangered species were of personal concern to him, and that his particular

area of expertise was in the study of shellfish which had been reduced in numbers and were "endangered in the broad sense of the word."

He said he feared for the long-term chances of the survival of the Lord Howe woodhen, which had been reduced to individuals despite the intensive efforts of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, of which he was once head.

Dr McMichael said one of the most important outcomes of the Academy of Science symposium on the biology of rare species and endangered species should be an agreed list of those Australian species of birds, mammals, flowering plants and any other group which should have priority in research to ensure their preservation.

"I know of no attempt to assign any ranking to endangered species, as a guide to the priority which might be attached to efforts to preserve them," he said.

He said there was need for a better understanding of when a species was endangered and when it was beyond reasonable hope of recovery.

PROPOSED ALCOA FLUORIDE EMISSION LEVELS TERMED TOO HIGH

Melbourne THE AGE in English 17 Nov 81 p 3

[Article by Bill Birnbauer]

[Excerpt]

Fluoride emission levels proposed by Alcoa for its aluminium smelter at Portland are too high, according to the Environment Protection Authority.

In an application for an EPA waste discharge licence, Alcoa asked for a discharge rate of 0.97 kilograms of fluoride per tonne of aluminium produced.

The EPA's preliminary determination of discharges of waste to the air from the Portland project recommends a discharge of 0.73 kilograms of fluoride per tonne of aluminium.

The chairman of the EPA, Mr Jack Fraser, said yesterday that Alcoa's application had been considered carefully, "but we believe that in the interests of adequate protection of the area the controls we have prepared are justified and are more appropriate."

"We are trying to protect the well-being of the area in the long term and have taken a slightly more conservative approach than Alcoa," he said.

He said the reduction in emission levels could be achieved by using anti-pollution equipment in the anode exhaust furnace. The EPA's proposed controls were the same as those proposed for new smelters in

NSW and reflected emissions achieved by the best available control technology.

A spokesman for Alcoa, Mr Brian Morley, said yesterday that the company needed time to study the EPA's report before making a statement. He said that the allowable rate of fluoride discharge from smelters in the US was one kilogram per tonne of aluminium produced, with a maximum discharge limit of 1.2 kilograms.

A spokesman for the EPA said yesterday that the discharge of fluoride from the smelter could result in adverse effects on vegetation and could affect animals such as cattle and sheep which grazed on the nearby vegetation. There was no risk in the consumption of the animals concerned.

The spokesman said that the anti-pollution equipment which would need to be installed to reduce the fluoride conditions to an acceptable standard would cost about \$4 million.

Mr Fraser said the EPA's proposed licence would include a requirement that animals and vegetation near the smelter site should be monitored regularly. Alcoa and interested bodies will have 45 days to lodge submissions with the EPA on its proposed emission rates.

INDUSTRIAL WASTES FROM PAPER MILL TO BE DUMPED AT SEA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 Nov 81 p 6

[Article by Andrew Bolt]

[Text]

The Federal Government will monitor the dumping of about 3000 tonnes of highly colored industrial wastes in the sea off Sydney during the next few days.

A Japanese tanker, the Tentaku Maru, was loaded with the wastes yesterday and will leave Melbourne within a couple of days to head for an area more than 240 kilometres from the New South Wales coast.

An officer of the Department of Home Affairs and the Environment is on board the ship to monitor the dilution of the wastes, which come from a Footscray paper mill operated by Smorgon Consolidated Industries.

The wastes are mainly lignin and tannin, but also contain arsenic, lead and mercury.

The dumping from the tanker is being supervised by the Commonwealth marine programmes section. The section's director, Dr John Gordon-Smith, said the

wastes were far less hazardous than others previously dumped in the same area.

The sea dumping trial by Smorgon follows bitter opposition by local residents to its previous method of disposal of the wastes from its Footscray mill.

The Environment Protection Authority eventually clamped down on the incinerator this year issuing a tough preliminary determination for a licence which demanded expensive changes to reduce the odor.

CSO: 5000/9058

BRIEFS

RANGER MINE REOPENS--Darwin--Energy Resources of Australia has been given permission to reopen the treatment plant at its Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory. The Mines and Energy Minister, Mr Tuxworth, said that his department had received a report on the incident from ERA. Initial consideration of it indicated that the company's explanation of the breach of its authorisation was accurate. Last Monday the secretary of the Department of Mines and Energy, Mr Mike Purcell, had ordered closure of the plant because the company allowed an island to appear in the tailings dam in breach of environmental rules. "The company's plans to operate the plant within proper health and environmental standards are sound," Mr Tuxworth said. "Full assessment of these matters will take some days, and will involve detailed consideration of the company's reports by the Department of Mines and Energy. This will be done in full consultation with other supervising authorities, the supervising scientists and the Northern Land Council." [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 30 Nov 81 p 43]

MARY KATHLEEN SEEPAGE--Seepage from settling ponds and water storage areas had been reported at Mary Kathleen uranium mine, Mr Mackenroth said in State Parliament yesterday. But monitoring procedures on mining sites were making a mockery of environmental safeguard in Queensland, said Mr Mackenroth, who is Labor's environment spokesman. He said the Uranium Advisory Council had reported to the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Anthony, on the operational problems at the mine. The council reported to Mr Anthony seepage from settling ponds and water storage areas and runoff from roadways and other areas which used mine waters to control dust. The council noted also that cattle seemed to wander freely over the tailing pond areas, Mr Mackenroth said. He said the Water Resources Minister, Mr Tomkins, had said routine tests carried out by the Water Quality Council revealed no problems at Mary Kathleen. Later, Mr Tomkins admitted that no tests had been carried out at the site to support this conclusion, and no government tests had been carried out since. Mr Mackenroth said the irresponsible attitude of the Queensland Government had placed the people of Queensland at risk. He called on the government to order regular independent tests of sensitive mining sites, and to make public the test results. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 3 Dec 81 p 3]

CSO: 5000/9059

DANGERS OF FARRAKA TO BANGLADESH ENVIRONMENT NOTED

Dacca THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 20 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Navigability in rivers Brahmaputra and the Ganges may be totally lost for continued upstream withdrawal of waters at Farakka in the Ganges. It has also seriously impaired environment in Bangladesh besides other normal adverse effects like saline ingression affecting both agriculture and industry, the inaugural session of Bangladesh Third National Geographical Conference was told on Saturday.

The three-day conference which was inaugurated by Prof Zillur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangir Nagar University, was attended among others by experts from India, Nepal and United Kingdom. Prof M.I. Chowdhury presided over the conference.

The conference was also addressed by Prof Sirajul Arefin, General Secretary of the Association, Prof M. Kamaluddin and Dr M.K. Bandopadhyaya of Calcutta University. Apart from local delegates, the conference is being attended by delegates from UK, India and Nepal.

In a joint paper, Dr Mohammad Khorshed Alam, Associate Professor of Water Resources Engineering and Kazi Sayeedur Rahman, Assistant Professor of Engineering, both of Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology warned that the continued withdrawal of water at Ganges was causing shoaling in both the Ganges and the Brahmaputra and study revealed that the sedimentation increased by over 3.5 times in past one decade.

They pointed out that the confluence of the two mighty rivers at Goalundo is getting choked up with increased shoals and bars. In 1976 the choking in the Brahmaputra grew up to seven times over 1956 level. In the Ganges the increase was two times.

Diversion of the river's flow by the barrage upstream of Padma has resulted in decline of water levels in rivers in the western Bangladesh.

Saline Water

The reduced flow has resulted in the intrusion of saline water inside the country leading to damages of agriculture and industry.

Besides causing decline in the ground water table, shortage of water and barrenness of the land, the barrage has also influenced the weather pattern.

"If such a condition is allowed to continue, the whole of western region would turn into a barren zone where there would be no farming causing depopulation of the area in the course of time."

This was observed by Prof. M.I. Chowdhury, President, Bangladesh National Geographical Association at the conference.

The confluence had increased considerably in area and width over the past 20 years. The increase in the Ganges was about 1.5 times and 7.5 times in the Brahmaputra Alam and Rahman said. The rivers thus developed into braided channels and became more unstable, their study showed.

They further said that the confluence point had shifted 10.45 miles upstream from the 1968 position. The shifting occurred predominantly due to heavy erosion of the left bank of the Ganges.

The paper further said that "it is clear that the confluence is getting choked up with increased bars and shoaling. This is causing drainage congestion of the flood flow in the monsoon and navigation hazards in the dry season. The rivers are losing their dynamic balance and producing higher intensity of flood peaks of shorter duration observed since 1975-76."

Major Factors

On the cause of shoaling the authors said that major factors were the low-flow upstream of the Ganges, release of sediment laden water from the bottom pool of the Farakka barrage to the already overloaded rivers, wide range of maximum and minimum flow about 25 for the Ganges and 15 for the Brahmaputra, rise and fall of the river stage earlier flood in the Brahmaputra etc.

"The flood in the Brahmaputra is about one and half month earlier than the flood in the Ganges. The Ganges also has the lowest flow during April and May when the Brahmaputra produce increased pressure upstream of the Ganges and cause heavy erosion of the banks. The eroded materials are then deposited on the bed and banks producing shoals and bars. If these reductions of flow and release of sediments laden water continues, then the navigability of these rivers at the confluence and upstream may be lost totally in near future," they pointed out.

Ecology

In his written speech Prof M.I. Chowdhury also focused on the interference with nature leading to changes in ecology and lifestyle of the people. He cited the examples of destruction of forests through construction of Kaptai hydroelectric barrage, use of fertilisers and insecticides and construction of polders or embankments.

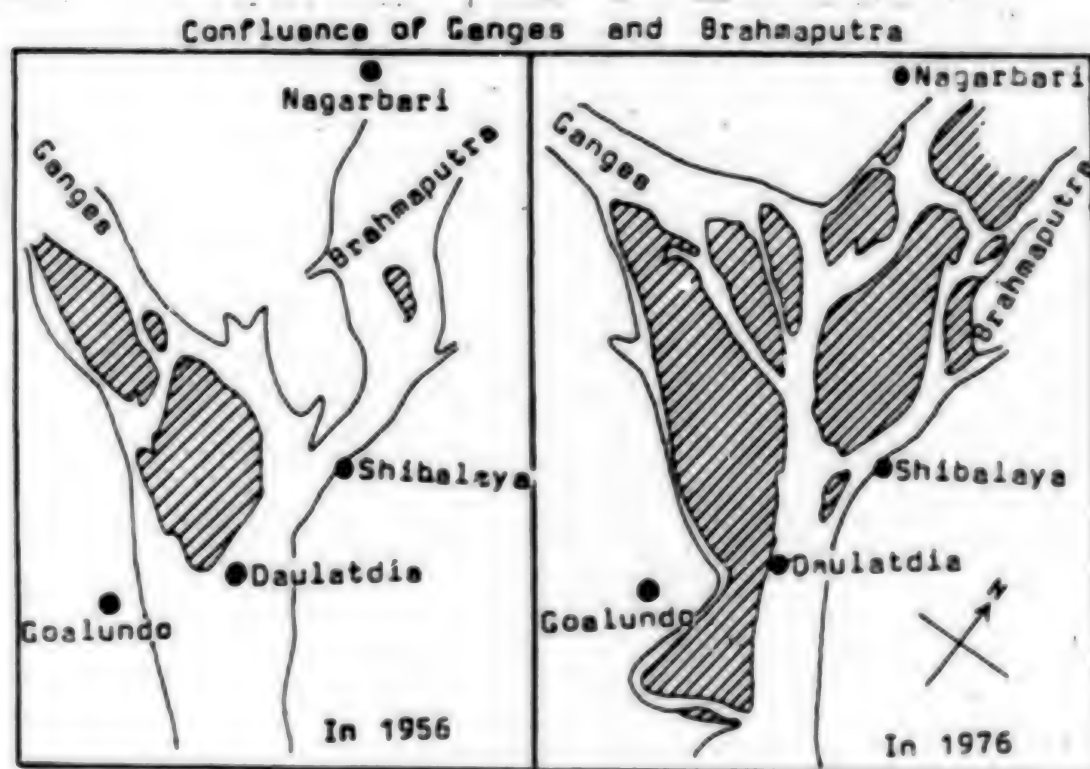
Referring to a study project taken up jointly by the Hamburg University of West Germany and Jahangirnagar University's Geography and Chemistry Departments, Prof Choudhury said that during the dry season the oxygen content of river Jamuna declined.

Aquatic Life

The study on 'flow of carbon' through the river showed that reduction in oxygen in Jamuna during winter also reduced the number of aquatic life, particularly fish. Although the cause was yet to be determined it seemed that somewhere in the course of the river there was a flow of sulphur which along with hydrogen may have caused the problem.

Later during the discussions in the technical session it was observed that due to Farakka barrage, sediments were depositing near the Calcutta port threatening its existence; the sediments were depositing there in the same process as it is being deposited naturally in the river's mouth below Chandpur in Bangladesh.

It was also agreed upon by the participants that scientists of both Bangladesh and India should work together in regard of the changing river course and harness the resources for the development of both the countries.



COAL SCHEMES TO BE FREE OF POLLUTION MENACE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Jan 82 p 5

[Text]

MEAURES to prevent pollution and restore ecological balance will now form an integral part of various schemes for mining and the construction of washeries in the coal industry, report PTL, UNI.

According to coal department sources, concurrent steps will be taken for the conservation and protection of the environment, while implementing new coal projects.

The use of dust suppression techniques in coal handling plants, conversion of open circuit washeries into closed ones to avoid discharge of effluents and reclamation of land disturbed due to opencast mining are among the major steps being taken to reduce pollution.

Other anti-pollution steps include introduction of mechanised soft coke to reduce emission of smoke into the atmosphere, springling of water on haul roads in opencast mines for dust suppression and the recovery of carbon chemicals from beehive coke oven fuel gases.

The coal department has sent a series of guidelines to Coal India Limited for integrating anti-pollution measures with the schemes for exploitation of mine-

ral resources.

Coal India Limited has constituted an anti-pollution measures committee for monitoring the progress and implementation of various schemes.

Meanwhile a study of effluents of coal washeries and coke oven plants has revealed that effluents from ponds contain more than 3000 mg coal fines per litre, as against the prescribed limit of 100 mg per litre. This is due to the prevailing practice of filling up the ponds with coal fines before diverting the inflow of slurry to other ponds, according to the coal department.

A questionnaire has been circulated to assess the impact of mining activities on the environment in Jharia, Raniganj and Singrauli coalfields.

Official sources said the coal companies have also started an afforestation drive in coalfields.

The foremost hazard of coal-mining activities is air pollution. This is caused by soft-coke making, coal usage in power houses, demper operations in opencast mines, coke ovens, and fire in coal stocks and washery rejects.

Water pollution is caused by dust, noxious washery effluents and acidic mineral water discharge.

CSO: 5000/7036

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

BRIEFS

HUBEI ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION MEASURES--In 1981, Hubei Province achieved good results in solving the salient problem of environmental pollution. Wuhan Municipality, which is an industrial center and has been polluted relatively seriously, instructed 138 factories and enterprises to control their pollution within a specified time in 1979 and 1980. In 1981, 33 units completed control over pollution, 55 units partially completed control over pollution and 17 units completed installation of facilities to remove smoke and dust. Six hospitals for tuberculosis which are situated beside the Donghu Lake in Wuhan had allowed dirty water to flow into Donghu Lake in the past. In 1981, these six hospitals completed installation of facilities to treat their dirty water. Qingshan sulphuric acid plant, No 2 pharmaceutical factory and No 2 chemical works in Wuhan Municipality which were well-known polluting units in the municipality have achieved remarkable results in controlling pollution after a year's efforts. Wuhan alcohol plant has renewed its boiler and taken measures to eliminate smoke and dust and thus the plant has solved the problem of pollution. Huangshi Municipality, a city of heavy industry with mining, smelting and construction material production as its main work, was one of the 18 key cities throughout the country the air pollution of which was serious. Over the past years, this municipality has paid special attention to the industrial boilers and furnaces. In 1981, the municipality completed installation of facilities to eliminate smoke and dust for 198 out of its 324 boilers and completed installation of facilities to eliminate dust for half of its 185 furnaces. [HK281506 Wuhan Hubei Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 27 Jan 82 HK]

SHANDONG TELEMETER AIR SAMPLING--Jinan, 26 Jan (XINHUA)--A wired telemetering air sampling system was recently put into service in Zibo City, Shandong Province. The system with six unmanned posts samples data of sulphur dioxide, wind velocity and direction. The data are transmitted over the city's communication links to the central station where it is displayed on video display terminals or printed out. Experts from China's 34 units confirmed that the system is "more accurate and efficient and less expensive" than traditional manned operations, and therefore suitable for air monitoring in China's medium and small-sized cities. [Text] [OW290433 Beijing XINHUA in English 0217 GMT 26 Jan 82 OW]

CSO: 5000/4018

GOVERNMENT FINES CITY FOR POLLUTING BAY

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 18 Jan 82 pp 1, 13

[Article by Jun Ramirez]

[Text] The national pollution control commission (NPCC) has slapped a daily fine of ₱1,000 against Manila City Hall for "polluting the sea," it was learned yesterday.

NPCC officials said solid and liquid wastes from slaughtered animals at the city-owned Vitas abattoir in Tondo have been continually polluting the Manila bay.

The fine, which took effect starting Jan. 1, was only 20 per cent of what the NPCC originally demanded from the local government.

The city was supposed to pay a fine of ₱5,000 daily, but was reduced following the protest of Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing.

Bagatsing said the city government has long wanted to temporarily close the run-down abattoir to speed up the rehabilitation of all facilities including the installation of the waste water treatment plant.

Bagatsing said the city government set aside the plan after the Metro Manila commission made special representation on behalf of some 200 Vitas meat dealers and butchers.

The dealers and butchers had strongly opposed Bagatsing program and suggested, instead, a phase-by-phase repair work in order not to disrupt their operations.

NPCC Chairman Guillermo Picache said he sympathized with Bagatsing's opposition.

He said, however, the agency could not effectively enforce pollution laws among private firms "if it would treat local governments and other government agencies with kid gloves."

Metro Manila Vice Governor Mel Mathay said a committee has been formed to resolve the controversy between City Hall and the meat dealers.

If the committee favors Bagatsing's plan, he will make arrangement with managers of other slaughterhouses in Metro Manila to accommodate the Vitas meat dealers and butchers.

The Vitas slaughterhouse supplies about 40 per cent of the mean requirements of the city.

TREE PLANTING PROGRAM FOR PANTABANGAN

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 15 Jan 82 p 5

[Text] Tree-planting in Pantabangan, one of the most vital watersheds in the country, will be accelerated under an on-going technical cooperation program between the governments of the Philippines and Japan, it was announced by the embassy of Japan in Manila.

The project is called the Pantabangan afforestation project and is located in the municipalities of Carranglan and Pantabangan in the province of Nueva Ecija, covering a total area of about 50,000 hectares.

Centered in an 8,100-hectare pilot forest, RP-Japan activities include the conducting of studies on various tree species, forest spacing, tending systems, fertilization methods, and other afforestation techniques.

The Japanese government is dispatching a study team here on Jan. 25 for technical discussions with local counterpart agencies to help map out areas where Japan can lend assistance to accelerate the project.

The project started in 1973 following discovery by experts that because of the lack of trees in the area plus partial denudation, more than the allowable amount of soil found its way to the dam's bottom daily. If unchecked, this abnormal level of siltation could shorten the dam's life expectancy of 100 years.

Actual planting started in June 1977 and over 3,000 hectares have been planted to-date.

Among the existing facilities in the project is the 8,100-hectare pilot forest and a Forest Conservation Training center, both funded by a Japanese grant aid.

CSO: 5000/4910

REGIONAL PROGRAM FOR CLEANUP OF EAST ASIAN SEAS

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 6 Jan 82 p 21

[Article by Donatus De Silva in Bangkok]

[Text]

EFFORTS to fight pollution in the once sparkling blue waters of the East Asian seas are receiving support not only in terms of words, but hard cash as well.

—Asean member countries have contributed US\$172,000 to finance environmental activities during the next two years.

The Asean contribution for 1982 and 1983 to the trust fund, established to finance the East Asian seas action plan, came from Indonesia (US\$40,000), Malaysia (US\$34,000) and the Philippines (US\$34,000).

Commenting on the initiative of Asean officials, Dr Richard Helmer of the United Nations Environment Programme said: "This is indeed a welcome initiative by the Asean countries. It shows that they mean business about the programme to clean up the East Asian seas."

In addition to the Asean pledges, UNEP will contribute US\$200,000 for the two-year period — half of which will directly go into the trust fund.

Asean countries have established a coordinating body which will implement the East Asian seas action plan launched by the countries early this year. The body will meet periodically in conjunction with the existing Asean expert group on the environment.

At a meeting held in Bangkok recently, Asean

officials identified seven major projects for implementation during the next two years. These deal with oceanography, assessing oil pollution and pollution from domestic and industrial wastes, mangroves and coral reefs, oil pollution control, waste disposal, and information exchange.

Each Asean member state will be responsible for implementing projects for which it has the expertise and where some work has already been carried out.

During the meeting, officials assigned institutions that will take the lead in coordinating the work of projects with other countries. For instance, Thailand's National Environment Board will take responsibility for carrying out oceanography studies.

The Marine Science Centre of the state-owned University of the Philippines will assess the effects of pollutants and hazardous practices, such as dynamite fishing, on fisheries development, mangroves and coral reefs.

As some chemicals that are used to disperse oil in the seas, particularly oil spills, have serious side-effects on the marine environment, Malaysia's Fisheries Research Institute will stimulate cooperative research in identifying those chemicals which can be used that are least toxic.

Survey of sources and monitoring of oil pollution will be the main task of Indonesia's Oil and Gas Technology Development Centre.

According to SSS Sundram, Malaysia's director general of environment, "ours is a region with close affinity to the seas, witnessing rapid industrial development. It therefore becomes urgent for us to be vigilant in protecting our marine environment."

During the Bangkok meeting, officials called upon UNEP to conduct an immediate survey of national capabilities in the region relating to the marine environment and coastal area development.

UNEP was also requested to carry out a compilation of existing data on the oceanography of the East Asian waters. The Geneva-based UNEP Regional Seas Centre will coordinate the technical aspects of the action plan during the next two years.

Commenting on the outcome of the meeting, one participant said: "We hope other countries and leading international institutions will come forth and help us to implement the action plan. After all, there are a number of countries outside the region that use, exploit and, at the same time, pollute the East Asian seas." — Depthnews Special

COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF COASTLINE PLANNED BY GOVERNMENT

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 30 Dec 81 p 3

[Text]

THE Barbados Government, through the assistance of an international funding agency, will in the near future undertake a comprehensive study of the island's coastline.

This was stated yesterday by Chief Town Planner, Luther Bourne, who, at the time, was giving his department's position on the construction of groynes and other structures on beaches.

He said that at present the Government did not have any full-time expertise in this area, although there were one or two coastal engineers in the island.

He pointed out, however, that there was a person who advised the Government on an ad hoc basis, whenever the need arose.

Bourne said that at present the Town and Country Planning Department dealt with all applications to construct structures on the beach individually, but agreed that this was not the best possible policy, as studies should be carried out over a period of years to determine what the effect would be.

He said that where they were more liberal, was in granting

permission for persons to undertake temporary remedial work. He said that this permission was granted under the condition that the applicant would be liable for any damage which resulted from this work.

Only last month, at a symposium to celebrate World Town Planning Day, the Barbados Town Planning Society expressed concern about the erection of these beach structures.

Former Chief Town Planner, Leonard St. Hill said following this symposium:

"Everybody who wants to preserve what they consider to be their integrity and safety of their beach, wants permission to put up what they consider to be the best form of protection for their individual property.

"These individual efforts do not always add up to the best possible arrangement. These should be done in accordance with a comprehensive plan which would ensure that Peter does not pay for Paul and that one man's gain is not another man's immediate loss."

He also called for a "proper beach control policy".

On December 6, the SUNDAY SUN brought public attention to large scale beach erosion now occurring at Fitts Village, St. James.

CSO: 5000/7515

LACK OF INFRASTRUCTURE, SCARCITY OF WATER VIEWED

Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 10 Jan 82 p A3

[Editorial: "Water Shortage"]

[Text] It is increasingly obvious with every passing day that the country's infrastructure has not kept pace with the superstructure of goods and services production in its growth in recent years. To speak of the bottlenecks that have strangled expansion in certain areas is already almost commonplace. While in certain aspects, Chile is fairly well equipped or close to developed nations, its basic material infrastructure continues to be that of a backward country. Our roads and streets bear no relationship whatsoever to the highway and transportation systems of advanced countries or even with those of neighboring nations. Other types of communication, such as the postal service or the telephone, exhibit varying degrees of inadequacy. At our ports, a bitter struggle is being waged against bureaucratic and trade union entanglements, the former more difficult to extirpate than the latter, and our principal airports are, according to what foreign visitors tell us, far below the size and efficiency of those in the rest of the hemisphere. Rather, they resemble those of the backward nations of Africa. The electrical systems demonstrate their unreliability in the winter, forcing us to wonder what would have happened if the speed of growth had not been affected by the recession and if this year had included more projects involving higher demands for energy. Public gas systems reveal failings and negligence in maintenance that have even caused deaths and extreme danger at times. Finally, the drinking water supply is becoming an irritation, as soon as the dry season begins and requirements increase.

It is now precisely the case of drinking water that concerns public opinion in the metropolitan area, for large groups are deprived of an element which the hot, dry climate makes doubly vital. This occurs in particularly exasperating terms because those affected are never advised of interruptions in the supply and only learn the origin of the problem when a large number of neighbors or some public figure takes the complaint to the press. Otherwise, the authorities retain their indifferent attitude, which is unfortunately the usual treatment which the officials in government or of public services and enterprises reserve for users and citizens in general.

There is not enough water in Santiago, despite the fact that Santiago residents can still see snow on the nearby mountain peaks and that their city is cut through or surrounded by rivers and channels. The only solution proposed and imposed by

the experts consists in raising rates so as to thereby ration consumption. However, this procedure almost seems to be an incentive for the respective enterprises to persist in refraining from the indispensable investments, for it is obvious that their profits will increase enormously, without any need for additional investments.

The suspicion that this encouragement to maintain scarcities is effectively operating was confirmed by the recent denunciation formulated by former Senator Francisco Bulnes to the effect that in October, there was inexplicably no support for a proposal which, with an investment of only 4 million pesos, would increase the supply of water by 80,000 cubic meters a day, enough to provide service to a quarter of a million persons.

The shortage in question once again demonstrates the weakness of the country's material infrastructure. While the well-known lack of resources to strengthen it joins with official indifference, improvisation or a lack of adequate planning and, in this particular case, the incentive to maintain the status quo deriving from rationing through a rate increase, there will be no imminent solution for a problem that justifiably annoys many residents of the capital.

11,464

CSO: 5000/2048

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS ON ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 18 Jan 82 pp 11-A, 13-A

[Text] The government has provided a control mechanism for atmospheric contamination in the country, involving a series of standards establishing the maximum quantities of permissible emissions and prohibiting the discharge, into the air, of contamination agents, such as particles, sulfur oxide, nitrogen oxide, and acid mist by any public corporation or private person who has a fixed artificial source of air contamination.

The statute also prohibits the placement of fixed artificial contamination sources in localities where the concentration of contamination agents from existing sources, plus the new source, would exceed the standards established on air quality.

Decree No 2, dated 11 January 1982, signed by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and Health Minister Alfonso Jaramillo Salazar, determines the maximum permissible concentrations for suspended particles of sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and photochemically expressed oxidation agents, such as ozone and nitrogen oxides.

Concerning the control on emission sources, the law establishes minimum standards for coal-fired boilers, cement factories, metallurgical plants, asphalt production plants, sulfuric acid plants, boilers, furnaces, and equipment burning solid or liquid fuels, nitric acid plants, and incinerators.

The decree spells out the methods for measuring emissions from chimneys or ducts at fixed artificial sources, the determination of the speed of emissions, and their analysis, as well as the determination of their moisture content. The analysis must also reveal the emitted percentages of carbon dioxide, oxygen, carbon monoxide, and the dry molecular weight, sulfur dioxide, and acid rain.

It has also been ordered that the Ministry of Health--concerning the installation or modification of a fixed artificial source of air contamination whose size would justify this or when the emissions from said source are liable to cause adverse effects on the health and well-being of persons--shall demand the submission of an environmental impact study, prior to the start of construction or installation of the source and as a requirement for obtaining health authorization for the installation of the source and health authorization for its operation.

Burning Prohibited

The law points out that no corporation or private person may perform any open burning of any type of material within national territory, with the exception of fire used to cook food, to control fires, burning for agricultural or forest cultivation purposes, burning required for the prevention and control of diseases and pests, and fires used for the training of specialized fire-fighting personnel.

A system of fees is established for the users of contamination sources as pointed out in Article 128: "In accordance with the provisions of Article 18, Decree-Law 2811, the direct or indirect utilization of the atmosphere to introduce or emit fumes, vapors, or harmful substances, which are the result of lucrative activities, are subjected to the payment of fees for the service of elimination or control of the consequences of these harmful activities performed."

The decree adds that "fixed artificial sources of air contamination subject to the emission standards established in this decree and those which the Ministry of Health may issue later on, shall be subject to the payment of the fees mentioned in the preceding article."

Another one of its provisions orders that any person who has or operates a fixed artificial source of air contamination, regardless of its nature or characteristic, shall have a period of 18 months, starting as of the entry into force of the decree, to register said source with the Ministry of Health or a delegated agency, and the operation of such sources shall require health authorization for operation, issued by the appropriate authorities; the decree spells out requirements for obtaining such authorization.

Concerning surveillance and control as well as penalties applicable due to violation of the established standards, the decree indicates that "it is up to the Ministry of Health to exercise indispensable general surveillance and control and to take corrective measures necessary to assure compliance with the provisions of this decree."

Health Measures

The preventive or safety measures which the health authorities may adopt are as follows: partial or total suspension of work or services; evacuation of establishments or residential buildings; temporary closing of establishments which may be total or partial; suspension or temporary freeze of sale or employment of products or objects while a final decision is made on the matter; confiscation of objects or products and destruction or denaturing of articles or products, as the case may be.

Article 182 notes that "in accordance with Law 09 of 1979, failure to comply with or violation of the provisions of this decree shall make violators subject to the following administrative penalties: written warning; successive fines up to an amount equivalent to 10,000 daily legal minimum wage units, to a maximum figure in effect at the moment the respective decree is issued; confiscation of products or any other measure preventing their utilization; suspension of health authorizations mentioned in this decree up to 1 year and cancellation of health authorization for the operation of an establishment or any other authorization provided for in this decree."

The law indicates that "the penalty consisting of suspension or cancellation of health authorization for operation or any other authorization provided for in this decree implies the temporary or final closing of the establishment, building, or service concerned."

Height of Chimneys

Article 79 of the Law for the Control of Contamination establishes that boilers, furnaces, or equipment burning solid or liquid fuels, such as coal, fuel oil, kerosene, diesel oil, or crude petroleum, which cause or produce sulfur dioxide, may not emit into the ambient air the gases coming from their combustion, through a chimney whose height shall be less than indicated below:

Total heat released in thousands of kcal/hr	Minimum height required in meters		
10 or less	15	15	20
11-40	20	25	30
50	25	30	35
75	30	37	50
100	35	45	65
200	40	52	72
300	45	60	80
400	52	67	95
500	60	75	110
750	85	100	130
1,000	110	125	150
2,000 or more	125	150	

The law says that, when, within a radius of 50 m, whose center is the source of contamination, is a building with a height of more than 10 m, the minimum height of the chimney shall be taken as the larger of the following two values:

- (a) The height of the building at more than 5 m;
- (b) The minimum height required.

5058

CSO: 5000/2031

AFFORESTATION SUPPORTED AS MEANS OF HALTING EROSION, DESERT EXPANSION

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 24 Dec 81 p 4

[Text] Nature and forests are elements of cardinal importance in a balanced ecology, which is why our country has such great interest in them.

The forest is one element of man's habitat. It is indispensable to his well-being, his psychic and moral equilibrium. It has always met the most essential material needs of mankind. Among other things, it provides his housing and furnishings. It also satisfies the physiological needs of man. In fact, because of the action of its foliage, the forest gives off oxygen that is indispensable for life and cleanses and vitalizes the atmosphere. It is a refuge for the overtaxed city-dweller. Finally, it helps hold soil in place and halt the expansion of the desert.

Economically speaking, the forest is an important resource because it provides products that will go to the processing industries, such as wood for carpentry, cabinetry, poles and railroad ties. Along with alfalfa, it is a source of raw materials for the manufacture of cellulose, used in high-quality paper, artificial textiles and different synthetics.

In Algeria, out of a total area of 2,205,000 square kilometers, the desert occupies some four-fifths. Forests cover 3,020,000 hectares and are distributed as follows: potentially productive forests, 1 million hectares; deteriorating forests, 1.24 million hectares; and undergrowth, 780,000 hectares.

In general, these forests are owned by the government. They contain essences closely related to the essentially Mediterranean climate.

One finds cork oak, evergreen oak and the "zen" oak among the deciduous trees and among the conifers, the Aleppo pine, cedar, maritime pine, juniper and thuja.

If one compares the entire area of forests in Algeria with the area of the national territory, one sees a large shortage. Furthermore, considering the constant danger which the advancement of the desert in the south represents and the current condition of the green barrier that is to halt that encroachment, we note that immense efforts will have to be made to respond to all our national forest needs.

The afforestation operation requires structures and means consistent with the size of the tasks ahead. That is why the government has entrusted three basic missions to the Office of Secretary of Forestry and Development: protection and

development of the forest patrimony and natural plant groupings; protection and development of the land; and protection of nature serving the collective welfare.

The work undertaken by our country in the area of afforestation since independence is not only aimed at rebuilding the existing forest areas, but also at extending the forests over several thousand hectares of land now open to erosion, deterioration and desert encroachment. The reclamation or creation of our forest resource will require long-term investments, advanced techniques and persistent, stubborn efforts. It must be a combined effort in which the citizenry will have a prime role to play.

Achievements in this field are growing. Substantial progress has been made with respect to mastering reforestation techniques.

With respect to public opinion, the need to improve and expand the physical, economic and social role of the forest patrimony is now more acutely realized. This progress is expressed by constant interest in afforestation campaigns organized and supported by the party's rank-and-file organization and volunteer department.

Operations are essentially carried out by the forestry office and its undertakings are heavily backed by volunteers and young people from the National Service, organized into Soil Conservation and Restoration Groups (GDRS).

Since the establishment of the GDRS, achievements as part of the Green Barrier program are moving forward, although the "cruising speed" has not yet been reached.

Nor have volunteers been a minor factor in the development of forests. They have the advantage of constituting a militant human makeup force for technical operations and are a means of making the masses aware of forest conservation.

Since independence, some 560,367 hectares have been replanted, including 28,891 hectares by volunteers. The volunteer share is constantly growing, from 3,025 hectares during the 3-year plan to 12,337 hectares during the 1980-1981 season alone.

Consequently, the concept of a "useful forest to protect and develop" applied by the government is now beginning to be widely understood by the citizens. This new awareness should make it possible to achieve objectives in the conservation and protection of the environment.

To attain these objectives, the behavior of whole companies with respect to the biosphere must change. In order to live in harmony with nature, human societies must forge a new ethic embracing plants and animals, on which their survival and prosperity depend. In the final analysis, men destroy ecosystems because they do not realize that it is in their interest to preserve them.

In connection with this afforestation campaign, every individual should plant his own tree in order to build a forest. That forest will contribute to our survival.

POLLUTION CONTROL PROBLEM OUTLINED

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 27 Dec 81 p 4

[Article by A. Benslam.: "An Evil To Be Wiped Out"]

[Text] Constantine--To say that pollution, that "evil of the century," is steadily growing worse, gradually ruining our environment, would be trite. It is obvious that while industrial development has had positive effects such as an improvement in the standard of living, it has also -- with the aid of decentralization -- caused a certain deterioration of the natural environment and multiplied the number of sources. Whether in the water or the atmosphere, that pollution threatens public health and agricultural production as well.

It is therefore necessary to limit the harmful effects of the plants in operation, plants that were set up rapidly and without the proper precautions, and at the same time, to provide every new project in the future -- particularly the industrial zones -- with modern technical means that can reduce pollution to the maximum extent.

These two forms of struggle, with the same objective, should be developed for pollution of the water and by water and atmospheric pollution. Without going into excessively technical details, let us emphasize that industry uses nearly half of our water resources and discharges 90 percent after use. This causes pollution of both surface and underground water, meaning mineral, organic or chemical pollution, depending on the type of the industry.

As for atmospheric pollution, it is due to manufacturing processes and the different effects stemming from the combustion of primary products. This involves iron and steel facilities, the chemical industry, cement works, refineries, paper pulp plants, garbage incineration units, and so on. In the governorate of Constantine, where industrial development occupies an increasingly important place, the fight against pollution is so acute that it has been the focal point of a broad debate in the Executive Council, based on two reports from the secretary general of the governorate and the director of industry.

The city of Constantine experiences particular difficulty, as we know, with its drinking water supply, while awaiting construction of the Ain Smara and Athmenia Wadi dams. In fact, supplying water to the residents of the city poses a problem of quality as well as quantity.

Normal needs total an estimated 1,635 liters a second, while current resources are scarcely 655 liters a second, 60 percent of which goes to industries, public establishments, and so on.

This shortage forces the people to obtain water from different superficial sources that are not treated and that are generally polluted by the infiltration of waste waters. In fact, the lack of purification stations means that waste waters are dumped directly into the wadis or *chaabets*, where they mingle with river water without any previous treatment. Waste water from rural construction areas and peripheral urban areas is simply dumped on the ground, meaning contamination of farm land and underground water.

One should note here the dangerous practice of market garden crops such as one sees in Constantine, where 149 vegetable gardens are irrigated using waste water and water from polluted sources.

Examples

In addition, industrial residues containing chemical and toxic products are simply dumped outside, which results in contamination of the underground water sheet and streams. During the executive meeting, Serradj, secretary general of the governorate, provided details on the main industrial units that dump waste and polluting residues. ONALAIT [expansion unknown], which has no purification or neutralization station, daily dumps 50 kilograms of soda, the same quantity of acid and 10 kilograms of detergent, meaning a degree of pollution of DC 02 of 550 milligrams per liter.

SONACOME [National Mechanical Engineering Company], on Hamimine Wadi, whose waste includes nitric and sulfuric acid, caustic soda, sodium, bisulfide, sodium cyanide and different oils, has a degree of pollution of DC 02 of 264 milligrams per liter.

Naturally, SONACOME does have a purification and neutralization station which treats chemical waste, but the curing waste products are dumped directly into the wadi.

SONITEX [National Textile Industry Company], at Chaab Ersas, dumps dyes, solvents, detergents, hydrochloric acid, caustic soda, sulfuric acid, alcohol, carbonate, sodium chloride and chemical products into the Boumerzoug Wadi. This company also has a purification station but it does not operate. Its degree of pollution is an estimated 135 milligrams per liter. Other companies with polluting industries: the SNS [National Steel Company] in the industrial zone, the Almo unit at El-Khroub, and so on. Other units may pollute in the near future, such as SNIC [National Chemical Industries Company] at Chelghoum Laid, SIMCO [expansion unknown], the SONATRACH stations, the SNTA [expansion unknown] units, and so on.

These are only a few examples because other large plants are being built, such as the Hamma Bouziane cement works, set up in a market garden area. Nor shall we mention all kinds of other types of pollution due to automobile traffic, handicraft activities and semi-industrial activities, which are particularly numerous.

Therefore, as the director of industry emphasized, while, for the existing units, it will be a matter of defining serious pollution problems and finding remedies for them, in the future we shall have to prevent risks and take the necessary measures at the time of the design and construction of industrial zones in general, choosing the proper sites for construction of the units.

It should be added, however, that the very fact of being aware of the gravity of the problem and of having debated it is a positive action that should be completed by concrete measures.

11,464

CSO: 5000/5005

MOROCCO

BRIEFS

FREAK WEATHER--Rabat, January 17--A violent freak hailstorm today covered Rabat with a rare blanket of ice particles as meanwhile torrential rain continued to fall in Morocco. The rainstorms are filling reservoirs whose level had dropped considerably after two years of drought in the North African state. The sudden heavy rain has caused flooding and landslips which have blocked roads and caused houses to collapse. A total of 311 homes are reported to have collapsed at Bou Igrane, in the province of Agadir, where the authorities have gone to the aid of 1,200 families left without shelter. (A.F.P.)
[Text] [Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2364, 19 Jan 82 p 12]

CSO: 5000/5007

TUNISIA

BRIEFS

DROUGHT AID--Tunis, January 16--Tunisia is to receive 10,000 tonnes of cereal in emergency aid from the World Food Programme to offset the effects of drought and bad weather in the centre and south of the country. The aid was destined for small farmers and stock-breeders who were worst-hit, the announcement said. (A.F.P.) [Text] [Paris AFRICA AFP in English No 2364, 19 Jan 82 p 12]

CSO: 5000/5007

BRIEFS

TORRENTIAL RAINS--The torrential rains that fell recently in the central part of the country have disrupted life in the region. A number of economic sectors have been seriously affected. Radio Mozambique said yesterday that railraod traffic on National Highway 6 had been interrupted following a rise in the level of the Pungoe River. This highway connects Beira with various other parts of the country, notably with the provinces of Manica and Tete. The road became impassable at a point approximately 70 kms from the provincial capital of Sofala. Radio Mozambique also said that this year's agricultural production in the province of Zambezia will be seriously affected because of the torrential rains. The worst hit have been the cotton and rice sectors. The Zambezia MECANAGRO has had to stop its activities in various units of production. [Excerpt] [Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 14 Jan 82 p 1]

CSO: 5000/5648

LAINGSBURG: A YEAR AFTER FLOODS

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 19 Jan 82 p 11

[Text]

LAINGSBURG'S Grand Hotel epitomises everything in the new Laingsburg — the desire for a new life, a chance to throw off the old.

It was left untouched by the floodwaters, but Lawrence Hart and his wife Jenny, who run the hotel, have been repainting the building and turning it into a haven of which the town can be proud.

This is what the people of Laingsburg want: houses, homes, people — and a chance to thrust behind them the horrors of Sunday, January 23, 1981.

A few houses are being built in the town but these are for municipal officials — Mr Nico Mans, the town clerk whose wife died in the flood, Mr Fanie Visser, the town's health inspector, and the town's new spiritual leader, Dominee J M Ackerman, from Prieska, whose predecessor, Dominee Malan Jacobs, also died in the flood.

Ghost town

The rest of the homeless have been living for almost a year in small, excruciatingly hot pre-fabricated houses. Dust, which has been controlled to some extent by the planting of grass in the flood plain, gets in everywhere.

The townsfolk are restless. They need to see something happening, some action to allay their fears that this will become a ghost town.

There have been gripes about disaster fund payments. Many people say they would have been better off if they had not been insured. Others have left the town.

Mr Ackermann's philosophical about the townspeople's complaints. He likens their attitude to that of a dog injured crossing a road. "If I go to help the dog, he will bite me," Mr Ackermann says.

"The people have been terribly hurt."

He has had one of the most difficult jobs in the town, that of seeing to the emotional needs of his congregation. Many of the elderly who lost everything have given up the will to live. They are waiting to die.

Sitting outside his pre-fabricated house, he was making plans for the memorial service and other events to be held this weekend.

Young and old will exchange bouquets in a gesture of mutual gratitude. There will also be a symbolic presentation of a bouquet to the South African flag, the town's gesture of thanks to the rest of the country for all the assistance given in the past

year.

Only one grave in the new graveyard has a gravestone — that of Magdalena Drotakie, who died aged 94. The others have hastily made wooden crosses painted with the names of the dead.

It is hard to believe now that there was a flood last year. The Buffalo River holds only a trace of water.

Insured

More than 180 homes were lost during the flood but only about 22 new houses will be built in the town itself. Another 120 or so will be built in the new housing area.

Building has not yet started on the housing site.

Finance will come from the Department of Community Development but those residents whose properties were insured will have to hand the full amount over to the authorities.

One of those who thought of leaving after the flood was the town's health inspector, Mr Fanie Visser, a farmer in the Sutherland area. On March 6 last year, his wife, Winnie, gave birth to the first Laingsburg baby born in the town after the flood.

Now he sees a promising future for the town and wants to go on living there.

MAIZE WIPED OUT BY HAIL

Mbabane THE TIMES OF SWAZILAND in English 21 Jan 82 p 1

[Article by Mashumi Twala]

[Text]

ABOUT 1,000 tons of maize — worth an estimated E134,000 — has been destroyed by hailstorms at Mahlangatsha.

In what is described as one of the worst losses in recent years, the crop was ripped to shreds by huge hailstones in a series of thundershowers last week.

"This represents about 50 per cent of all the maize grown in the Mahlangatsha Rural Development Area," the Chief Project Co-ordinator, Mr. Patrick Lukhele said.

He said the problem was even greater than it might seem because all the affected farmers were not protected by insurance.

He explained that most farmers do not usually take out insurance for maize, only for crops like cotton and tobacco. "It is very difficult to do this," he said.

Mr Lukhele said the loss could not have come at a worse time, because the maize season was nearing the end.

'Very late'

As a result, he said, the RDA Unit is considering advising farmers in the area to remove the damaged crop and replace it with

beans because, he said, the time was ripe for beans.

He said the department also intended taking up this matter with the Director of Agriculture and Co-operatives and suggesting to farmers that short term maturity varieties of maize be planted.

"It is, of course, very late to plant any maize now, but it is the only resort," he added.

Mr. Lukhele pointed out that no provision was made for such developments by the Ministry.

"It would be almost impossible to make any sort of contingency for an occurrence of this nature. What the Ministry can do is to provide assistance through the necessary advice, which is what we are doing."

He added: "There are many risks involved in farming and farmers go into it with full awareness of the dangers. This is one of them."

A similar disaster occurred early last year in various Rural Development Areas. "The situation then was not as bad as this one where even some buildings were affected," Mr. Lukhele said.

FOREIGN AID FOR WATER SCHEMES EXPECTED

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 19 Jan 82 p 5

[Text]

AID for installing village water-supply schemes is expected from at least six countries this year, the Minister of Natural Resources and Water Development, Senator Joseph Muka, said yesterday.

"We hope the first lot of aid will come in before the middle of this year," he said.

The minister was speaking after inspecting a newly completed electrical scheme drawing water from a weir on the Nyaure river in the Shumba communal area in central Mashonaland.

He said that a number of foreign countries had indicated willingness to supply both technical and financial assistance. His ministry, he said, was in the process of working out plans for negotiations with interested donors.

So far 10 schemes were fully operational while the construction of another 10 was well under way throughout the country.

The ministry estimated that about 1 000 schemes would be needed to supply piped water to four million people in the rural areas. The Minister said the exercise would take time and involve "hundreds of millions of dollars".

Apart from financial and technical constraints, Senator Muka said, progress was also being hampered by a shortage of drilling machines and transport. Between 15 and 20 machines were needed by the ministry to complement work being done by 50 private contractors, he said. So far the Government has none.

He called upon district councillors to persuade people to leave scattered homesteads and to live in organised groups. This way, he said, more people would benefit from the schemes.

He said that work could be speeded up if councillors organised voluntary self-reliance groups. The groups would do a lot by digging power-line and pipe trenches.

"We intend tackling this exercise in conjunction with the Ministries of Agriculture, of Local Government and Housing and of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development," he said.

Senator Muka was accompanied by his deputy, Mr Mark Dube, and a team of engineers from the ministry.

CSO: 5000/5649

CLEAN WATER PLAN LIMITATIONS NOTED

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 26 Jan 82 p 6

[Editorial: "A Bit Odd"]

[Text] **WATER** is a vital but limited resource and its limitations were forcibly brought home last week by the Minister of Natural Resources and Water Development, Senator Joseph Maita.

Senator Maita said that about 1 000 electrical schemes were needed to bring clean water to four million people in the communal lands. Such an exercise would take time and involve "hundreds of millions of dollars".

Apart from financial and technical constraints there are other problems. At the moment progress is being hampered by a shortage of drilling machines and transport. Both the Government and the people in the communal areas do recognise the difficulties involved. It's not a problem that can be solved overnight.

We therefore find it a bit odd for the Minister without Portfolio, Dr Joshua Nkomo, to insinuate that the Government is to blame for the plight of rural people.

It may be true that Zincord funds will not solve all our problems, but to try to make political gain out of a problem that may be with us for quite some time is unwise. Rather than criticize the Government for having done nothing, Dr Nkomo should have suggested the use of army engineers in speeding up repairs to some boreholes which were damaged during the war.

For a man who believes in the supremacy of Parliament one would have expected that he would be introducing a private member's Bill about creating jobs and ideas on how to solve the plight of rural people. We believe that his proposed indaba on unemployment will only be an academic exercise and we don't see how it can bring benefit to the unemployed.

LAND INSPECTORS TAKE TO THE SKIES TO BEAT EROSION

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 23 Jan 82 p 7

[Article by Caroline Allen: "Soil Conservation Is in the Air"]

[Text] **CONCERN** is mounting in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Water Development over the critical condition of Zimbabwe's greatest resource: land.

The 90 field officers of the Lands Inspectorate are intensifying their efforts to educate all sectors of the population about the serious situation, and one of the most effective means, says deputy chief inspector, Mr Robert Jenkinson, is the use of the ministry's survey plane.

In 1981 384 land inspectors were involved in 648 hours of aerial inspection flying. Each of the 14 "provinces" demarcated by the Inspectorate has a chance to use the plane for a week every two to three months.

"The land inspectors consult with the Intensive Conservation Area members and district councillors and decide which areas to cover, and who will go on the flight," says Mr Jenkinson. "During the flight the accompanying inspector will point out the damaged areas and make notes for a report he will deliver to the district council later."

Mileage allocation and shortage of vehicles restricts movement on the ground, so the flights are ideal because the problems can be seen very clearly from the air. "The present Nation with local government officials has been tented over the last nine months, and our efforts are beginning to pay off, although progress on rehabilitation is slow."

The biggest problem stems from the practice of clearing and cultivating the banks and the land adjoining streams and waterways. Such cultivation loosens the soil, and when the river floods in the rainy season all the topsoil, which sustains the main growth of the crop, is washed away. Literally thousands of tonnes of Zimbabwe's land is "leaving the country" every season.

The cause of the recent escalation of the problem is tied to the sensitive issue of land allocation. At the moment a large percentage of the population of the country is mobile. Some refugees who cannot wait for lengthy processing by the Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development, have moved on to "vacant" land without authority.

Others are leaving the old "unproductive" land and are looking for more fertile spots near rivers

and forests where the soil is richer. All are intent on clearing and planting as many crops as possible to push up yields, both for their own consumption and as cash crops. But the land is suffering.

"Mahura Dam in the Fort Victoria area was built in 1970 and it is already three-quarters silted up," said Mr Jenkinson. "A good-sized dam should have a life expectancy of 20 or 30

years. We cannot afford to keep building dams which sit up at this rate.

"Mahura irrigates 300 acres of good land and the yield is fantastic, but the catchment area above the dam is now unstable. Even if this is stabilised immediately we still face the problem of the soil already in the rivers which we must make an effort to retain.

"When a water system is disturbed it is not only the water and land potential that is reduced. Fish and animal life is destroyed as well."

The officers of the Lands Inspectorate are sympathetic to the plight of the people, despite the urgent need for them to change the patterns of cultivation. "It is all very well to tell people, 'Move away from here, you are destroying the environment'," said one inspector, "but people are hungry,

they have to eat. The only way to get food is to grow it. People must be given an alternative."

Controlled settlement is essential. The land capacity for human population and crop potential must be assessed carefully, but the process is expensive. It may cost \$20 000 to survey just one farm, not counting the amount involved in the resettlement of the families.

Many people are not waiting to be allocated land but are moving on to farms as soon as they hear that they are vacant or have been acquired by the Government.

The Ministry of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development is faced with at least 150 000 landless people and they cannot monitor the use of the land once it has been allocated. Laws already exist whereby squatters can be prosecuted, but the policy of the ministry is to try every means of persuasion to get people to look after the land voluntarily before it is prosecuted.

There are no quick solutions, although the problem is pressing.

"But the situation would improve greatly if the district councils produced their own by-laws on conservation," says Mr Jenkinson. "They must keep talking to the people, the

up with the Agriflex extension advisers and mobilise programmes in the schools in their area so that the future generation is alerted to the dangers of letting the quality of the land degenerate."

CSO: 5000/5650

SHORTAGE OF STAFF HITS WATER PLAN

Salisbury THE HERALD in English 14 Jan 82 p 5

[Text] **THE** Division of Water Development's Midlands water supply engineer, Mr Alfred Moll, has called for extensive manpower training if drinking water is to be brought to the majority of Zimbabweans by 1990.

In an interview, Mr Moll said the Midlands office was running half-staffed with only three water supply engineers and six technicians.

STARTED

"Money is not the main problem at the moment. The shortage of skilled personnel and inadequate transport facilities are the major bottlenecks in the programme."

The ministry had started by installing the easiest and cheapest type of boreholes near rural service centres.

Three piped water schemes were already working in the Midlands area, while two other schemes were under way in north Gokwe, supervised by the Ministry of Local Government and Housing. Three more projects had been earmarked for the Lower Gwelo, Silobela and Zhombe communal areas.

Mr Moll said the ministry wanted to increase the number of these schemes and then hand them over to the district

councils as soon as the necessary infrastructure had been established.

"The goal of the UN's International Drinking, Water Supply and Sanitation Decade will be realised only when the plans to provide accessible water points at every rural service centre get off the ground," Mr Moll said. —

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

GWelo CRACKDOWN ON POLLUTION--Gwelo has been declared a smoke control area in terms of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, a spokesman of the Gwelo City Council announced yesterday. This means that, with the exception of the railways and dwelling houses, the Health Department of the Council will monitor smoke and dust emissions from all factory premises in Gwelo. The spokesman said smoke and dust emissions equipment and charts, although not available in the country, will soon be imported from abroad.--Ziana. [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 16 Jan 82 p 7]

CSO: 5000/5649

FISHING KOLKHOZ WATER PURIFIER DEVELOPED

WA220930 Tallinn MOLODEZH ESTONII in Russian 9 Dec 81 p 1

[ETA report: "Caring About the Sea"]

[Text] The sea feeds the fishermen, and they in turn treat it attentively and respectfully.

The specialists of the "Okrober" fishing kolkhoz have set themselves the task of finding an effective means of purifying ship's water of harmful substances. They turned to scientists of the nature protection group of the Tartu State University physics faculty. And thus...

The ship is moored at the dock. A "cocktail" of diesel fuel, lubricating oil and water is poured into a special tank, the knife-switch is closed and, as if in a giant mixer, the mixture begins to bubble and foam. The foam collectors remove the impurities and deposit them in a tank, and within a short period of time it is possible to open the faucet of the apparatus, pour a glass of transparent water and drink it calmly.

The analysis shows that water containing 60-70 percent impurities is practically cleaned completely and distilled. The collected waste products of salts and oil are converted into fuel for the boilers.

In all, this equipment uses a current of 12 volts, small compared to its capacity of 100 watts. In essence, this would light one lamp. The device can also be used successfully in purifying the residual water from car washes. They will be useful for motor vehicle transport enterprises and petroleum bases.

CSO: 5000/2056

SWEDISH STUDY ON SEA POLLUTION STIRS DEBATE IN DENMARK

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 8 Dec 81 p 13

[Article by Sv. AA. Jensen: "Agriculture Claims Cities Pollute Seas"]

[Text] Danish farmers are angry about the fact that agriculture apparently is being blamed for the death due to lack of oxygen of seabed vegetation along the coasts of Denmark and Sweden.

Swedish scientists feel the explanation lies with the farmers' growing use of chemical fertilizers and that large amount of these fertilizers have been washed into the seas due to heavy rains the last two summers. That caused the algae to multiply too quickly and sink to the seabed, where a lack of oxygen developed as a result of putrefaction, killing the fauna on the seabed.

Big Study Underway

The Environmental Board has neither accepted nor rejected this explanation, but a big study is now underway, scheduled to be completed before the Danish-Swedish summit meeting in December to deal with the serious pollution problems.

"It is completely wrong to blame agriculture for this pollution," said agricultural adviser K. Skriver, Viby. "The villain is the wastewater from big cities. Much work and a great deal of money have been spent to clean up this wastewater, but there is not enough chemical purification. Hence, the wastewater contains too much phosphorus.

"Phosphorus is the only radically changed factor that has actually increased pollution of the open seas in the last 20 to 30 years.

"The other algae nutrients--nitrogen and potassium--have always been present. From the beginning of time, nitrogen has formed an inviolate circle between earth, water and air, and potassium has been circulating between earth and water, irrespective of agriculture," said K. Skriver.

Phosphorus Comes From Wastewater

"Nitrogen and potassium are not pollutants and do not contribute to the growth of algae, and no authority can stop these nutrients' natural circle. But the third

necessary nutrient, phosphorus, does not circulate between earth and water. It is retained by the earth and cannot be washed away.

"This means that neither cultivated nor uncultivated soil discharges phosphorus of any significance into the waterways. No, some 95 percent of the phosphorus in open waters come from sewage, and particularly from household wastewater. This is the pollution that should be attacked instead of criticizing an innocent minority population."

8952

CSO: 5000/2035

AIR POLLUTION TO BE ANALYZED

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 21 Jan 82 p 3

[Article by Kirsten Sorrig]

[Text] Air pollution over Denmark will now be studied and analyzed. In less than 2 weeks the Environmental Board will start taking measurements in the most expensive and far-reaching study of air quality to date in a number of cities.

"Air pollution over Denmark has never before been so thoroughly studied so we really don't know very much about its extent and character," said civil engineer Finn Palmgren of the Environmental Board's air pollution laboratory.

Measurements will now be taken at 30 measurement stations in the cities of Copenhagen, Odense, Fredericia, Aalborg, Naestved, Randers and Esbjerg. The study which will cost approximately 15 million kroner is expected to be completed in 1984 and it will be conducted in cooperation with the various counties, municipalities and local foodstuffs supervisory groups.

The amount of lead and sulfur in the air over big cities has declined due to restrictions and various forms of pollution control activity introduced in the last couple of years. Among other things it was immediately detectable when the lead content of gasoline was reduced in 1978.

"The biggest problem is becoming the amount of nitrous oxides in the air over big cities," said the director of the Environmental Board, Jens Kampmann. "This form of pollution stems from furnaces and automobile exhaust systems and can be dangerous to people's health. Among other things these gases are suspected of being carcinogens," he said.

Jens Kampmann does not think there is any reason to do anything in connection with the present air pollution that has occurred as a result of special weather conditions.

6578
CSO: 5000/2054

NEW SEEPAGE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS FROM FIRM REPORTED

Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 16 Jan 82 p 3

[Text] There is a continuous seepage of more than 3 tons of more or less hazardous chemicals from Cheminova's old factory site at Nisum Broad. However, it will be months before the authorities will know whether it will be possible to stop the seepage of these pollutants.

The extent of the seepage was dealt with in a report issued by the Environmental Protection Board, which, as stated last night on TV by Director Jens Kampmann, has "set up a group to consider measures to be taken."

The environmental authorities know that the seepage consists of very hazardous chemicals, among them sulphote, which is 60 times more poisonous than bladon [a parathion insecticide]. Many of the substances of the seepage may be seen along the beach, and it is dangerous to touch several of them as they may be absorbed through the skin.

The seepage from the old factory site is 10 times larger than from the poison depot which was partially removed at a cost of 25 million kroner. The poison depot in question was the one at Breakwater No. 42 at Harboere Tongue, from where there was an annual seepage of 300 kgs. of toxins into the North Sea. But after a large number of drillings at the old factory site where the production was stopped in the fifties, it has now been found that there is a considerably larger seepage from here. It is not yet known where on the site the toxins are stored, nor is the quantity deposited there known, but this will now be studied by a working group composed of representatives from the environmental authorities and Cheminova during the coming 4-5 months. According to the TV report, environmental expert, Professor Finn Bo Rasmussen of the Technical University of Denmark says that the population will have to be warned against touching the sand near the old factory site, and swimming should be banned. On the possibilities of removing the poison, he says that it will be both technically and economically unfeasible to remove the poison.

This was confirmed by Environmental Director Jens Kampmann, who grants that "there is large-scale seepage, but countermeasures will be carefully considered, and it need not be too long for a program to be prepared. I believe that we shall have a proposal for countermeasures in 6 months' time."

7262

CSO: 5000/2049

BRIEFS

NEW GOVERNMENT'S ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM--Minister for the Environment Erik Holst has five bills to be introduced during the brief session of the Folketing. First and foremost, the environment legislation of 1973 will have to be revised. The changes will not be as far-reaching as was first envisioned by the minister, but it is proposed that the Environment Board of Appeal be expanded together with the Employment Council of the Labor Movement. In addition, there will be increased possibilities of lodging complaints in local environment cases, but anglers, Noah and conservation people will not be given a general right to lodge complaints. New rules will also be incorporated for the extermination of rats. In connection with the revision of the environment law, there will also be a minor amendment of the national and regional planning law. The government wants a major improvement of the purity of water of Danish streams. Matters on maintenance, control and construction will be transferred from the agricultural courts to county councils and municipal authorities. In the future, the law governing the conservation of streams will thus ensure the local authorities greater access to secure the quality as laid down for the individual streams. Finally, the Minister for the Environment wants to postpone an amendment of the Preservation of Ancient Buildings Act. [Text] [Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 13 Jan 82 p 7] 7262

CSO: 5000/2049

GOVERNMENT EXPECTED TO LOWER AMOUNT OF LEAD IN GASOLINE

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 6 Jan 82 p 8

[Article: "Johannes Koikkalainen: Administration to Determine Lead Level in Gasoline"]

[Text] The administration is to determine, as soon as possible, the goal to be sought for the lead content of gasoline. In responding to a parliamentary inquiry concerning the lead content of gasoline, Interior Minister Johannes Koikkalainen (Social Democrat) answered that this determination is part of the conditions set forth in the air antipollution act.

The inquiry was presented in written form by 30 members of Parliament representing six political parties. The first signer of the inquiry was Jacob Soderman (Social Democrat).

The signers called attention, among other matters, to the effects of lead on children. The latest studies confirm the fact that a considerable portion, 25 to 40 percent, of the lead found in body organs derives from gasoline. When lead is eliminated from gasoline, the lead content of the system (the blood) begins to decrease. This has taken place, say the signers, for instance in the United States.

The inquiry signers referred to a recent study which indicated that lead has an adverse effect on the mental development of children in such matters as the intelligence quotient and ability to concentrate. The possibility also exists that the high lead content in the system may be behind the restlessness of some children.

The inquiry states, "Lead particles in exhaust gases settle to the ground, on the leaves of plants, and by that route to animals and finally into the food of humans. They soil the hands of children and travel from the ground as dust into the breathing passages."

The inquirers pointed out that unleaded gasoline has been adopted for use in certain parts of Japan, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

Elimination of Lead Costly

According to Minister Koikkalainen's response, the lead emission in Finland is relatively small from the international point of view because of the smaller number of automobiles.

The maximum amount of lead content in gasoline was lowered to 0.4 grams per liter at the beginning of 1981. It is estimated that the number of automobiles in Finland by the year 2000 will be the same as in those countries that now observe the more stringent regulations, Koikkalainen said.

These regulations are already in force, or soon will be in forthcoming years in Japan, Sweden, the German Federal Republic, the United States, Norway, and Denmark, according to the inquirers. In those countries the limit is 0.15 grams per liter, or even less.

According to Koikkalainen there is no need on the basis of these reports to lower the lead content of gasoline any more rapidly than it is being done in Europe generally. However, studies conducted abroad on the susceptibility of children to lead contamination argue for more intensified research.

When considering the reduction of the lead content and the timetables, it is necessary, according to Koikkalainen, to examine also the costs of the various procedures. The reduction of the lead content from 0.4 grams to 0.15 grams per liter would result in a cost increase of 150 million markkas annually in the production of gasoline.

Because of cost considerations it is appropriate to investigate the adoption of the so-called lead traps for the removal of lead from the exhaust gases and to promote the development of engine technology, as possibilities permit, in a direction that lessens the use of high octane fuels, Koikkalainen said.

5955

CSO: 5000/2047

POLLUTION CONTROL SHIFTS FROM COMPANIES TO CONSULTANTS

Paris L'USINE NOUVELLE in French 10 Dec 81 p 143

[Article by Martine Castello: "Those Responsible for the Environment: Mediators"]

[Text] Only the large industrial groups can treat themselves to an "environmental protection" service commensurate with their problems. In more modest firms the environmental function, when one exists, is fulfilled by an official who coordinates the activities of the various departments and maintains relations with the administration.

Redefining the rapidly shifting function of the environmental official in business; this was the theme of the all-day meeting organized in November by the AFITE [French Association of Environmental Engineers and Technicians]. This profession was born in the early 1970's, when public opinion became aware of the importance of the environment and the administration began to pay increased attention to the problems of pollution control. Since pollution control almost never comes free of charge, industrialists rarely created posts for environmental officials of their own accord. As emphasized by Mlle Tissier, head of the Interdepartmental Industrial Board of the Lorraine region, "the administration is partially or indirectly behind it."

In the beginning, the environmental official was "an added element," states Mr Camilleri, the president of the AFITE. The first firms to establish "special environment" departments ten years ago were institutions like French Coal and Electricity. The urgency of the problems pushed them into creating a true environmental sector capable of dealing with all aspects of the problem: deontology, legislation, energy, pollution, safety at work. They were followed by companies like Rhone-Poulenc and St Gobain, oil companies (Shell), steel companies (Sacilor, Sollac). At Thone-Poulenc this function is performed in a delegation connected with management and having officials in the group's subsidiaries. A heavy structure that the PMI's [Small and Medium-Sized Business] cannot sustain (it is generally the head of the firm himself who performs this task).

Today the function is continually evolving. The reasons? The urgent pollution problems (water, air) have been virtually solved, the energy crisis favors instead a policy of energy conservation; finally, the general economic context scarcely encourages the heads of firms to invest in environmental protection.

On the other hand, there is room for positions as environmental officials, true mediators between the different departments of the firm and interlocutors with the outside. There are already a hundred of them in France. Mr Barat, who is responsible for the environment at the Oril Company (fine chemicals), himself defines his duties: "I have a quadruple mission: to be the technical interlocutor for the representatives of the departments in charge of pollution problems, to negotiate the methods of enforcing regulations, to draw up and propose to my management the actions to be undertaken, to make personnel aware."

The position's basic concern is to institute a dialog between the public services and the firm's management by supplying them with objective factors with which to evaluate pollution problems and their solutions. The environmental officer is the guarantee of the ecological good management of the products implemented in the firm. According to Mr Douard, the technical director of the Normandy Dairy Union, "It is not necessary that this be a full-time position."

According to Mr Lalande, the environmental officer of the Chimex Company, "A good knowledge of chemistry and chemical engineering and a good understanding of the manufacturing process are necessary, but also necessary is excellent sensitivity to environmental problems and teaching ability, in order to induce everyone to adhere to depollution measures." It goes without saying that most of the time this environmental "generalist" has acquired his specialization "on the job." The future officer will have to be found within the firm; to be willing to create the function is enough.

8946

CS0: 5000/2057

MEASURES TO COMBAT ATHENS POLLUTION ADOPTED

Athens TO VIMA in Greek 30 Dec 81 p 1

/Excerpt/ The staggering of work hours in the civil service, shops, banks, etc. will be incorporated in government measures to be taken to combat pollution in the /Athens/ basin on a permanent basis.

The purpose of the measure is to make the movement in and out of Athens for some 300,000 workers in the public and private sectors more spaced out in order to cut back on traffic jams which cause pollution.

When the definitive government decisions on pollution are to be announced shortly, among them will be the implementation of a continuous work schedule for certain categories of workers, categories which do not have such schedules now (for example, shops, etc.) so as to prevent movement of both workers and customers twice a day.

It must be noted that the continuous work schedule had been implemented on a trial basis 3 years ago for a short period of time. Results were positive as far as traffic was concerned, but the measure was finally dropped because of the opposition of those involved.

The present government is determined to impose the staggered work hour schedule to cut pollution.

Mr A. Tritsis, minister of urban planning, housing and environment, said that the ministerial council will take up the issue of the staggered work hour schedule and also the issue of observance of the measures taken through policing. This problem is critical because among the measures under consideration is the prohibition of private vehicular traffic in the center /of Athens/. The traffic police will therefore undertake establishing a belt around the center on pollution alert days.

As TO VIMA had written, besides the basin, an internal ring wider or narrower than the one included in Alexandros, Konstandinoupolis, Lagoumtzis, Khamosterna and Pendeli streets or boulevards is under consideration.

In these two zones, restrictions will be imposed on private vehicular traffic on the basis of the following three scenarios:

1. Odd-even numbers throughout the basin.

2. Odd-even numbers in the basin and 100 percent prohibition of private vehicular traffic in the center.

3. Circulation of only one-fifth of private vehicles in the entire basin. That is, only those vehicles whose licence numbers end in two successive numbers will be able to circulate alternately. That is, on the first day, only those whose numbers end in 1 and 2 will be able to drive; the next day, those that end in 3 and 4, etc.

Moreover, restrictions will be imposed on the production of not only the 100 big industrial plants but also on the many cottage industries if deemed necessary. Finally, those processing units and buildings (offices, homes, etc.) having central heating will be obliged to use filters.

5671

CSO: 5000/5308

ANTI-POLLUTION DRIVE ON ATTIKI INDUSTRIES

Athens TA NEA in Greek 30 Dec 81 p 3

/Excerpts/ "At some point in time, all industrialists must realize that the era of irresponsibility has come to an end."

In these words, Minister of Industry and Energy An. Peponis answered a question put to him by TA NEA with regard to measures taken last week by the ministry vis-a-vis certain polluting industries in Attiki.

As is well-known, a few days ago the ministry of industry gave a 3-month extension for the transfer of two industrial plants outside of Attiki, while at the same time imposed restrictions on the operations of two cement plants ("Khalyps" and "Iraklis"). The two plants which have been ordered to move out of Attiki are the Akhaia Clauss plant in Kaminia, Piraeus, and a mineral oil plant in Khaidari.

TA NEA made an attempt to approach the problem by discussing it with Mr Peponis and representatives of the industries affected by his measures.

The first impressions of the reportage give a clear picture on how much the industrialists have been frightened by these first measures taken, while at the same time they reveal the determination of the ministry --despite the complexity of the problem-- to move forward to implement the goals of the government, namely to lessen, even to the point of eliminating altogether, industrial pollution in Attiki.

Speaking to TA NEA, Mr Peponis said,

"The ministry of industry is not competent to propose measures which concern certain categories of industries or cottage industries. This is the responsibility of the ministry of urban planning, housing and environment. The ministry of industry implements existing regulations on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the degree and extent of the consequences as well as the reasonableness of the opposition by neighbors. As far as measures are concerned, we must make a distinction between the cement plants and the other two. The cement plants violated their time extensions, and if they can prove that they are in compliance, then the measures limiting their operation will be lifted. As for the other two plants, all data to be presented, in collaboration with representatives of the local government who have repeatedly made protests against the plants, will be examined.

"What is being done --with much prudence, believe me-- is being done so that all must realize that the era of irresponsibility has come to an end. It is not my ambition to lessen production of Greek industries; in fact, just the opposite. But that does not mean that we will not protect the environment."

MINISTER: NORWAY TO TAKE INITIATIVE TO FIGHT SEA POLLUTION

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 27 Nov 81 p 3

[Article: "Norwegian Fight for a Cleaner Sea"]

[Text] Environment Minister Wenche Frogn Sellag said in the Storting yesterday that Norway will take the initiative in the effort to combat ocean pollution. "Emissions in other countries have caused us considerable damage in the form of pollution of rivers and lakes, resulting in extensive fishkills," said Minister Frogn Sellag. She also thought that one of the long-term results may be damage to fields and forests.

"The government therefore considers it important to carry on the struggle against acid rain by applying pressure to other countries to gradually reduce emissions or sulphur," the Minister asserted when the Storting yesterday debated the environment ministry's budget for next year.

Much of the debate concerned whether the ministry's budget is to be increased from 736 million kroner this year to 828 million kroner, as proposed by the Labor Party or to 802 million kroner as proposed by Kare Willoch's government. Labor Party speakers severely attacked the government proposal, charging that it was a clear signal to the effect that the Conservative government wishes to weaken environment protection instead of strengthening it. Environment Minister Frogn Sellag maintained that the reduction would do no harm to environment protection work in Norway.

Hakon Randal (Conservative) chairman of the municipal and environment committee, thought the opposition overdramatized the matter and suggested that in politics it is possible to disagree on the effects of projects such as those in which the government has proposed reductions. Chiefly concerned are 16 million kroner in subsidies for sewage and waste disposal installations, including commitments for similar purposes, and 4.5 million kroner applying to postponement of the construction of a new administration building for the Directorate of Wild Game and Freshwater Fish. Inger Pedersen (Labor), former state secretary in the environment ministry, was one of those most strongly opposed to the proposed reductions. "Perhaps we should have expected nothing else from the Conservatives. This budget probably only confirms the impression of most people--that the Conservatives are not interested in environment protection. But that the Christian People's Party and the Center Party also renounce their weak, but nevertheless "green profile," is a disappointment that certainly will be remembered," she said.

Oddrun Pettersen, (Labor), former chairman of the municipal and environment committee, also severely criticized the government. "What we have is an environment ministry budget very roughly dealt with as a source of the means required for the Conservatives' tax reductions," she said.

Conservative Jan Petersen called attention to the fact that the reductions proposed are links in the Conservatives' efforts to reduce inflation and improve the growth rate of the Norwegian economy. Dealing with the criticism by the former government party, he said that when one looks at the sums involved and the worried reactions to them, one must conclude that inflation has hit the Norwegian language as well.

Ole Gabriel Ueland of the Center Party said that in supporting the government's environment protection budget it was not his party's intention to give less attention to environment protection. "But it is a fact that when priorities must be assigned good and well justified proposals must be postponed. And often the postponements in question will not be of long duration," he asserted.

11,256

CSO: 5000/2032

MARINE BIOLOGIST WARNS OF POLLUTION FROM PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRY

Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 3 Dec 81 p 64

[Article by Eivind Fossheim: "Chemicals More Dangerous Than Oil Spills"]

[Text] Tromsø. "Researchers are having problems with analyzing chemical means to combat oil spills because oil companies keep the formulas secret," says Marine Biologist Sunniva Lonning Vader of the Institute of Biology and Geology of Tromsø University to AFTENPOSTEN. "We have asked what the various oil dissemination products contain, but have been refused the information with the justification that competitors could copy them."

"Because several of the chemical oil dispersal means approved by the State Pollution Control Board have proved very dangerous to the eggs and larvae of cod and other fish, it is regrettable that our efforts to analyze the products in question have been hampered. It has been claimed that oil dispersal substances less dangerous to marine life have been developed, but experience indicates the reverse. The fact that some of the substances have become more effective in breaking down the oil and mixing it with seawater, just has the effect of making the oil more accessible to living organisms. The dispersion means can free substances from the oil that otherwise would not be accessible. The use of newer types of chemicals is probably more dangerous than the oil they are to fight," says Sunniva Lonning Vader.

Oil consists of hundreds, if not thousands, of components, and researchers have difficulty determining which are most harmful. From laboratory experiments we have learned that fish eggs and larvae that come into direct contact with oil cannot be saved. Laboratory experiments have also shown that high concentrations of oil in seawater produce defective fish that sooner or later perish.

Today we really do not know enough about the effect of oil in open waters. Laboratory experiments have shown that a number of eggs and larvae of fish, especially cod larvae, are very sensitive to oil spills, in particular those that take place during test drilling in the spring when eggs and larvae drift northward toward the Barents Sea after the spawning. This, aside from the fact that oil leaks over time from oil operations, can have long-range effects upon fish stocks.

Wind and weather break down the oil. Sunlight as well contributes a form of chemical decomposition that can form new substances more dangerous than the oil itself. We shall examine next what takes place in the surface layer under the influence of sunlight. In addition, we shall investigate which components of oil affect the genes of fish," says Sunniva Lonning Vader.

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